

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—Mary Lou Petersen

Jo Ann Whitmore



Mary Lou Petersen birding at Buckshot M, Appanoose, 17 October 2009. Photograph by Jo Ann Whitmore.

Mary Lou Petersen insists that she had no intention of becoming a birder, that she was interested in laboratory sciences not outdoor sciences. She will tell you that her destiny was preordained by the fickle finger of fate, that the last semester of college and her first year teaching were under the control of the cosmos not hers. Mary Lou wanted to take a certain math course that last semester at Iowa State Teachers' College. However, it was at the same time as a four credit biology class that she wanted. She needed a four credit biology course and the only other biology available was Dr. Grant's four credit field zoology of vertebrates. She opted for the math class knowing that field zoology was going to be trouble. Dr. Grant was a dedicated chauvinist and she was a feminist before there was a women's movement. Two of the field trips during the field zoology course were led by Peter Petersen. She wasn't impressed.

During that semester there were job interviews to go through. She did not want to leave northern Iowa, or go to one of Iowa's more populated areas. But, how could she turn down a job at one of Iowa's premier small school districts that was offered to her when she hadn't even applied for it? The first day of teacher in-service, the head of the science department casually mentioned to the industrial arts teacher that she had taken an ornithology class. The teacher and his wife were birders and insisted on taking her to Tri-city Bird Club. There she ran into Peter again and the rest is history.

Mary Lou was born in Waterloo in 1939, and lived in Cedar Falls from 1944 to 1961. She was the daughter of John and Lou Petersen. She went to school in Cedar Falls K-12. In 1961, she received her bachelor's degree from Iowa State Teachers' College in the last class that the institution used that name. In 1967, she received a MNS (Master of Natural Sciences) from the University of South Dakota. She accepted a position as a junior high school science teacher in Pleasant Valley Township School District that began in the fall of 1961. It was the district's first junior-senior high school building and 1962 would be the first graduating class from Pleasant Valley. At the time the district was small, a tax hedge for Alcoa, and

had existed only since the one room school houses were closed in 1953. She remained in the school district until her retirement in 1997.

Mary Lou and Peter married in August 1962. Her students accepted the change of name from Miss Petersen to Mrs. Petersen quite easily. However, a number of the parents were confused. Peter was editor of *Iowa Bird Life* at the time and an active bird bander. He was working at Crescent Macaroni and Cracker Company. He visited the nets to band the birds four times a day, before work, at noon, after work and at dusk. Mary Lou often accompanied him on the last check.

Mary Lou was a young bride of less than a year when Peter's undeserved faith in her cooking ability caused him to invite the first big name birding personality to their house for dinner. Jim Fowler, co-host of Marlin Perkins' Wild Kingdom television show, ate with them before a program he was giving at the Masonic Temple in Moline, Illinois. Jim needed to be in Chicago the next day. The night was treacherous with rain and sleet. Streets and roads were hazardous, so Jim slept on an air mattress in the second bedroom because the couple had only one bed. He said that he slept well and had slept in much worse situations.

Over the years there were other well known personalities who dined at their home. Dr. Walter Breckenridge, director of the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota and his wife. Dr. Breckenridge was an ecologist, ornithologist, and a fine bird artist. The couple purchased two of his paintings early in their marriage. Mary Lou also taught two of his grandchildren who went through Pleasant Valley schools. Dr. Olin Sewell Pettingill and his wife had dinner at Peter and Mary Lou's home before he gave an Audubon Screen Tour lecture. Dr. Pettingill was a professor at Carlton College in Minnesota and at the University of Michigan's Biological Station. He was Director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for many years. Dr. Pettingill won some of the highest honors given in the field of ornithology. Possibly the most well-known of all of the eminent ornithologists to be entertained by Peter and Mary Lou was Dr. Roger Tory Peterson and his wife. He too was in the Quad Cities to present an Audubon Screen Tour lecture. Following the meal, Peter had Dr. Peterson autograph all of the books they had that he had written. When Peter pulled out Mary Lou's old Peterson's field guide she was a little embarrassed by its condition. Dr. Peterson told her that he liked to sign books like hers because it showed it had been well used.

Early in the 1960s, a mother called the house when Peter was not at home. She lived in California and said that her young son was very interested in birds and wanted to know if Peter was netting. Mary Lou told her that Peter had recently put up the nets for the fall. The mother said that her son was coming to Davenport to visit his grandmother and she



Mary Lou Petersen (right) with Jon Dunn at the fall IOU meeting, Centerville, 17 October 2009. Photograph by Jo Ann Whitmore.

wondered if Peter would allow him to go with him to the nets. Mary Lou assured her that he would. Less than a week later the boy arrived and made arrangements to go to the nets with Peter. The youngster was Jon Dunn, editor with Jonathan Alderfer of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, fifth edition. He spent hours at the nets while Peter was at work. He told Mary Lou at the 2009 fall meeting of IOU that he learned his eastern warblers at Peter's nets.

Peter loved to travel and Mary Lou frequently traveled with him during the summers when school wasn't in session. She has traveled on four continents and visited 49 of the 50 states. Peter traveled more extensively as he could travel when Mary Lou had to be in school. Following cancer and subsequent cancer treatment, travel became difficult for her and she has not traveled much since.

Peter's terminal cancer was found in December of 1996. He was determined to put up the fight of his life, but he was realistic and at the 30th Anniversary of Bald Eagle Days in the Quad Cities, he cornered Tom Dunstan, professor of ornithology at Western Illinois University. Tom had been a graduate assistant in a class that Mary Lou took at the University of South Dakota. Peter asked Tom if Western Illinois University wanted his banding records and the years of nearly daily bird observations on field cards. Peter added the caveat that to get the field records Western Illinois University also needed to accept his library. A few weeks later Tom notified Peter that the university was willing to accept all the ornithological records and his library and banding equipment.

On 12 July 1997 Peter died. In the days that followed the thought occurred to Mary Lou that birding might well be a thing of the past. Peter was not there to go birding with her. She had retired from teaching, so she would not be taking students birding. Most of the birders she knew were not retired and had jobs and family obligations. She realized that the weeks she taught about birds in her classes at Pleasant Valley would no longer be in the curriculum. She did not express these doubts to anyone. Ann Barker might have sensed that Mary Lou needed encouragement to go birding. At the end of July she called her to say that she and Walt Zuurdeeg were taking her birding on Saturday. Mary Lou went birding that day. The pleasure of birding was still there. It was different without Peter, but it was there. He wasn't there for her to say "What bird call was that Peter?" She realized she had to improve in that area.

Weeks passed and she found a friend, Jean Deere, in her bereavement group, who was retired and could go birding with her. There were always the Audubon field trips and she was often with Cathy Konrad. Seven years after her retirement she realized that Joan Fisher and I had retired and we became part of her birding group. Carol Rogers retired and also joined the group of women who birded. Mary Lou has been Quad City Audubon's field trip leader for many years. She has been asked by teachers to give lessons on birds. For the last fifteen years, Mary Lou has run one of Peter's five Breeding Bird Survey routes, which she is passing on to Dick Sayles next year. It has becoming difficult for her to get in and out of the car fifty times, and it was taking more time to get the route completed. She completed fifty straight Quad City Christmas counts and forty-six Muscatine Christmas counts. She may not have intended to become a birder, but she is happy that she did.

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Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2011–2012

Chris Caster

A total of fifty-one counts were held this season, the same number as last. The NW Clayton County CBC returned after a four year absence and a new count was added centered on Canton, South Dakota. Missing from last year were Sac County and Cherokee.

Although Iowa saw subzero temps in early December, the CBC period was exceedingly mild. According to the State Climatologist, temperatures reached into the 50s on ten days between the 14th and 31st. Only three counts reported any snow cover, the most being 2 inches at NW Clayton County on the 23rd. Reported temps reached a high of 66 at Lamoni on the 31st.

The species count this season was 145, which crushed the previous high of 142, and sits well above the 10-year average of 136 species. The total number of birds (574,166) was also well above the 10-year average. Congratulations to Davenport for attaining the high species count of 91 this season. Other high counts included Keokuk (87), Burlington and Saylorville (85), Clinton (82), Green Island (81), and Shenandoah (77). Spirit Lake (58) led the northern counts. The average count this year had 13 field observers, 6 field parties, and found 57 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

Sixteen regular species were found in record numbers this season. Groups present in good numbers included waterfowl, raptors, shrikes, sparrows, and blackbirds. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

It was a record year for Greater White-fronted Geese (1,368) with 750 at Muscatine and 370 at Keokuk. Snow Geese (917) were present on fifteen counts. Five-hundred were at Lamoni, 180 were at DeSoto NWR, and 164 were at Muscatine. Ross's Geese (6) were reported on four counts. Cackling Geese (3,200) were again at record numbers. Canada Geese (154,811) were present in near record numbers. Exceptional numbers were at Cedar Falls-Waterloo, Sioux City, and Spirit Lake. Trumpeter Swans (400) were found in record numbers with 145 at SE Webster County. Tundra Swans (1,082) were also at record numbers with 722 at Clinton and 348 at SE Clayton County. Single Mute Swans were at Iowa City and Marshalltown. Dabbling ducks numbers were generally the best in five years. Northern Shovelers (255), Northern Pintails (146), and Green-winged Teal (347) had their best year in ten.

Canvasbacks (55,324) rebounded from a decade low to record numbers. However, other divers posted more average numbers. Notable were Bufflehead (225) which had their best numbers in a decade. Common Mergansers (2,676) rebounded slightly from a 20-year low. Red-breasted (18) and Hooded (134) mergansers were a bit above average. Ruddy Ducks (2,129) had their best season in a decade. Six Surf Scoters was a near

record and six White-winged Scoters tied a previous high. Two Long-tailed Ducks were at Burlington and a count week bird was at Keokuk.

Gallinaceous birds did not count well. Gray Partridge (13) were only found on three counts. Ring-necked Pheasants (197) were at their lowest number in at least 25 years. Even Wild Turkeys (1,959) were below average. Decorah had the only Ruffed Grouse. Northern Bobwhites (45) were about half their average; 24 were at Shenandoah and 15 were at Rathbun.

Six Common Loons were found on four counts, three at Red Rock. This was the most in a decade. Pied-billed Grebes (8) were average. American White Pelicans (186) were in very good numbers at Muscatine and Red Rock although Double-crested Cormorants (26) were below average. Great Blue Herons (200) were found in good numbers on Mississippi River counts. Fifteen at Wapello County was high elsewhere.

Bald Eagles (2,845) were below average. Perhaps the warm temperatures allowed them to remain further north. Northern Harriers (148) were the highest since 1994-95. Sharp-shinned Hawks (56) were below their average, but Cooper's Hawks (98) were above. Red-shouldered Hawks (15) tied their high. Red-tailed Hawks (2,221) were in record numbers, but Rough-legged Hawks (93) were well below their average. An astounding 14 Golden Eagles were found for a new high. They average closer to four a season. American Kestrels (662) were in good numbers and Merlins (19) also set a new high. Three Peregrine Falcons were found, one in Davenport and two in Cedar Rapids.

American Coots (936) had their best year in a decade. Killdeer (29) were in fair numbers while Wilson's Snipes (14) were harder to find. Ring-billed Gulls (21,108) had their best year in five, but Herring Gulls (675), although widespread, were not abundant. Thayer's Gulls (5) were found on three counts. Lesser Black-backed Gulls (3) were at Andalusia, Cedar Rapids, and Red Rock. They have been found on each of the last five counts and three birds was a new high. Glaucous Gulls (9) were at near record numbers.

Rock Pigeons (13,233) were again at near record numbers. Eurasian Collared-Doves (751) posted a new high; Boone County had ninety. By contrast, Mourning Doves (2,598) had their lowest count in a decade.

Eastern Screech-Owls (140) had their second highest count in 20 years. Kudos to Rathbun for locating nineteen. Great Horned Owls (209) were found in above average numbers and Barred Owls (204) were in near-record numbers. Long-eared Owls (28) were scarce again this year. Short-eared Owls (3) had their lowest count in eight years. After only two birds last season, Northern Saw-whet Owls (19) were found in record numbers.

Belted Kingfishers (154) had their best count in five years. Red-headed Woodpeckers (158) fell well below their 10-year average of 245. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (26) and Northern Flickers (603) were both below average. On the other hand the numbers of Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers bested their averages, and seem to do so by a small margin nearly every year. Pileated Woodpeckers (143) set a record high and their average has also increased with each count.

Northern Shrikes (92) were at near-record numbers. They were even found on four counts in the southern third. Loggerhead Shrikes (5) were average. Blue Jays (4,109)

were also average. American Crows (40,615) posted their lowest numbers in more than twenty years. Black-capped Chickadee (8,229) numbers were well above average, as were Tufted Titmice (821). Horned Larks (442) had their lowest count in nine years, as did Red-breasted Nuthatches (45). White-breasted Nuthatches (3,612) and Brown Creepers (424) were both found in very good numbers. Carolina Wrens (83) were somewhat below average, but Winter Wrens (45) were in near-record numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets (68) numbers were down somewhat, but they also fluctuate greatly from count to count. Seven Ruby-crowned Kinglets was well above average.

Eastern Bluebirds (832) numbers were good. Hermit Thrushes (19) were scarce considering that nine of those were at Green Island alone. American Robins (2,131) were well below average, but they are another bird whose count numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year. Northern Mockingbirds (6) were reported from 3 counts. Four were at Lamoni. Three Brown Thrashers was average. Cedar Waxwings (3,634) were slightly below their average. Yellow-rumped Warblers (97) were abundant. European Starlings (48,215) were somewhat below average; Davenport had the high-count with 2,820.

Sparrow numbers were mixed. Eight towhees was a very good total. Five of those were Spotted Towhees; DeSoto NWR and Shenandoah had two apiece, and Sioux City had one. Eastern Towhees were at Davenport, Decorah, and Buchanan County. American Tree Sparrows (13,347) were abundant. Song Sparrows (708) and Swamp Sparrows (191) were both in good numbers. Savannah Sparrows (36) set a new record. The previous high was ten. Lincoln's Sparrows (10), Field Sparrows (8), Harris's Sparrows (285), and White-crowned Sparrows (89) were all in very good numbers. However, White-throated Sparrows (239) and Fox Sparrows (9) had their lowest counts in more than a decade. Dark-eyed Juncos (18,544) were slightly below average. Lapland Longspurs (692) were also below average. Snow Buntings (57) were at their lowest in a decade. Northern Cardinals (6,530) numbers were down somewhat.

It was a good year for icterids. Red-winged Blackbirds (15,466) numbers were the best of the last five years. Meadowlarks (407) were above average. Rusty Blackbirds (204) had their best year in seven. Brewer's Blackbirds (150) set a record high, although they were all in one flock at Canton, SD. Common Grackles (272) and Brown-headed Cowbirds (1,200) were slightly below average.

Purple Finches (376) and House Finches (1,771) were both below average. Common Redpolls (21) were reported from three counts. Pine Siskin (293) and American Goldfinch (5,786) numbers were slightly above average. House Sparrow (22,368) numbers held steady. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (1,878) again set a new record high, something they've done in 4 of the last 5 years. Cedar Rapids had 29 this year, and Amana and Princeton had marked increases from last year.

NOTABLE MISSES

The most notable miss was Northern Goshawk, which had only been missed once in the previous 25 years. Also absent was Gray Catbird, found on 8 of the last 10 counts. Others missed were Black Scoter, American Pipit (5 of last 10), and Great-tailed Grackle (4 of last 10).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

Although we had a large number of unusual birds this year, it will be remembered as the year of the Snowy Owl. Eleven were found on 8 counts, and three others reported count week birds. Spirit Lake had three and Ida County two. The previous high count was five in 1993-94.

A Palm Warbler was found at Davenport and is new to the CBC. An Orange-crowned Warbler was in Illinois on the Green Island count. It wasn't new to the Iowa CBC, but hadn't been reported in more than 25 years.

Six Le Conte's Sparrows were found in two separate locations at Lamoni. They hadn't been on the CBC since 1997-98. A Vesper Sparrow was also at Lamoni. Two Chipping Sparrows were in Missouri on the Keokuk count.

Twenty-one Sandhill Cranes were found on four neighboring Mississippi River counts. Davenport had ten. The previous high count was 12 birds in 2001-02. Other notable finds included a Blue-winged Teal at Rathbun, a Turkey Vulture at Iowa City, a Bonaparte's Gull at Davenport, and a first winter Iceland Gull was a count week bird at Dubuque. White-winged Doves were at Shenandoah for a second straight year, this time as count week birds. Also at Shenandoah was a Marsh Wren. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Clinton. Two Red Crossbills were at Muscatine and four were at Buchanan County; Buchanan County also had a White-winged Crossbill.

After being missed last season, Westfield did find a Black-billed Magpie. They have been present on that count in 8 of the last 10 years. But one bird in the last two years is a far cry from the 20 birds found on three counts beginning in 2005-06.

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Table 1. Site Data for 2011-2012 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind		
				Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L			H	
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow River Forest	19-Dec	55	4,005	10	6	41	372	9	2	15	0	0	32	38	0	NW 10-25	
2. SE Clayton County	2-Jan	59	5,709	5	3	27	137	5.5	1	11	1	1.25	13	25	0	NW 25-40	
3. Dubuque	17-Dec	56	8,582	13	7	45.75	274	13.5	0	0	1	1	31	34	0.5	unk. 0-10	
4. Green Island	16-Dec	81	7,412	16	6	48.25	396.6	8.5	3	28	0	0	23	33	0	NW 0-7	
5. Clinton	20-Dec	82	22,795	11	4	34	285	1	4.75	56	2	2	26	36	0	NW 5-10	
6. Princeton	22-Dec	72	6,679	8	4	36	311	3.75	6.75	80	1	1	34	37	0	W 5-10	
7. Davenport	18-Dec	91	31,596	19	6	56.25	365	6.75	9.25	65	7	10	27	50	0	SW 0-15	
8. Andalusia	4-Jan	74	6,746	7	3	27.75	235	2	5.5	58	0	0	30	46	0	SW 0-10	
9. Muscatine	26-Dec	69	8,624	11	5	46	395	6.25	7.75	82	6	6	18	45	0	SE 5-20	
10. West Mercer County	15-Dec	67	8,244	12	5	42	326	11	9	69	0	0	34	43	0	NW 15-25	
11. Burlington	17-Dec	85	9,998	15	6	48	262	31	1	5	2	14	28	42	0	S 5-12	
12. Keokuk	19-Dec	87	67,121	9	5	45.25	367	9.5	1.5	23	0	0	42	51	0	WSW 8-13	
MISSOURI RIVER																	
13. Westfield	2-Jan	45	5,156	16	6	29	234	10.25	1	0.25	1	5	15	26	0	NNW 13-20	
14. Sioux City	17-Dec	60	31,457	25	10	77	621	15.5	2	12.5	5	9	17	48	0	SW 0-14	
15. De Soto NWR	18-Dec	66	8,316	21	10	46	305	28.75	1.5	10	na	na	27	51	0	S 3-12	
16. Omaha	17-Dec	70	14,550	37	11	71.75	437.5	30.75	0.5	0.5	na	na	8	23	51	NW 0-5	
NORTHERN THIRD																	
17. NW Clayton County	23-Dec	46	3,661	5	3	22.25	189	3.5	1.25	13	0	0	7	33	2	NW 5-15	
18. Decorah	26-Dec	47	4,868	16	6	43	301	17	2	10	9	14	25	42	0	SW 10-40	
19. Bremer County	17-Dec	47	7,464	7	5	31	373	7	1	25	0	0	25	37	0	W 5-10	
20. Worth County	1-Jan	30	6,711	6	3	26.5	233	8.5	0	0	0	0	25	30	1	NW 28-45	
21. Mason City	17-Dec	49	16,067	10	7	51	474	13.25	0	0	6	10.5	27	35	0	W 5-8	
22. Spirit Lake	17-Dec	58	20,208	9	3	24	214	3	0.5	0.5	19	76	19	39	0	SSW 10-20	
23. Humboldt County	31-Dec	34	1,297	3	2	15	127	2.5	4.25	36	1	3	33	46	0	S 10-30	
24. Canton	31-Dec	43	3,720	15	6	35.8	421	16	0	0	0	0	34	38	0	NW 15-30	
MIDDLE THIRD																	
25. Lost Nation	14-Dec	60	5,022	11	5	40.75	435	3.5	13	26.5	0	0	40	45	0	calm	
26. North Linn	28-Dec	36	2,526	7	3	24.5	306	2.5	2	25	0	0	24	38	0	SW 2-5	
27. Cedar Rapids	17-Dec	69	17,498	17	9	59.5	480.2	14.4	2	10	1	4	29	36	0	NW 5-7	

28. Iowa City	18-Dec	67	9,702	35	11	69.5	563	25.6	4.5	51	6	12.5	22	51	0	S 0-14
29. Amara	26-Dec	45	1,898	11	3	20	42	7	3	10	0	0	24	43	0	S 10-20
30. Buchanan County	21-Dec	54	2,494	6	3	23.25	173	0.5	1.25	11	0	0	31	42	0	var. 0-10
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	18-Dec	62	32,826	11	9	57	522*	23	1.5	7	0	0	18	34	0	W 5-15
32. Eldora-Union	21-Dec	38	3,002	8	3	23	247.3	6.5	0.25	6	1	7	25	43	0	S 5-10
33. Marshalltown	15-Dec	28	3,969	8	4	23.5	233	0	0	0	4	3.5	30	35	0	WNW 19-31
34. Grinnell	17-Dec	32	1,207	10	3	28	50	12	1	0	3	12	24	42	0	S 3-10
35. Ames	17-Dec	63	26,596	36	19	101.75	464	53.25	4.75	40.25	5	6.25	24	39	0	W 3-14
36. Saylorville Reservoir	18-Dec	85	17,236	19	8	89	693	30.25	5	44	0	0	27	55	0	S 5-15
37. Des Moines	23-Dec	72	12,434	9	6	43	432	15	5	25	3	15	14	41	0	W 10-20
38. Neal Smith NWR	31-Dec	37	1,744	35	9	30.75	133	22.5	1	10	1	4	33	55	0	SE 13-18
39. SE Webster County	31-Dec	42	2,825	11	4	30	230	3	0.25	1	2	2	27	48	0	S 20-30
40. Boone County	31-Dec	54	8,180	41	19	110.75	672	49.75	11.75	70	12	41.5	33	47	0	SE 0-18
41. Jamaica	19-Dec	57	12,439	16	6	43	389	16	4	48	0	0	28	37	0	N 12-24
42. Dallas County	17-Dec	50	2,258	14	6	30	242	10	1	0.75	8	16.5	35	49	0	W 2-18
43. Carroll County	1-Jan	38	1,325	7	3	24	224	8	1	0	3	4	22	37	0	NW 15-55
44. Ida County	18-Dec	35	1,134	12	5	84	289	21	1	10	2	6	32	48	0	SW 5-15
SOUTHERN THIRD																
45. Wapello County	30-Dec	36	2,869	7	3	13	101	1.5	0.75	0	3	11	41	55	0	NW 20-25
46. Red Rock Reservoir	17-Dec	64	8,817	11	8	40.5	450	10.5	1	19.5	0	0	26	44	0	WEW 9-16
47. Rathbun Reservoir	17-Dec	66	5,764	12	4	37	467	7	6.5	103	4	10	32	43	0	SSW 6-15
48. Lamoni	31-Dec	69	7,556	13	6	60	235	65	0	0	0	0	32	66	0	S 10-25
49. Union County	14-Dec	63	11,948	2	1	10	114	1	0.25	1	0	0	44	55	0	S 5-10
50. Taylor County	26-Dec	55	7,641	8	4	32	356.7	26	0	0	0	0	26	34	0	unk. 0-10
51. Shenandoah	17-Dec	77	52,270	12	6	48	403	13	1.5	8.5	0	0	27	45	0	calm

TOTALS 574,166 *Includes 15 miles by bicycle.

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2011–2012

Location	Gr W-f Go	Sn Go	Ro Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest					140	6	7				4
2. SE Clayton County				30	1906	36	348		2	5	20
3. Dubuque					239	15		1			2
4. Green Island					1939	4	2		3		1
5. Clinton					703	21	722		9	1	18
6. Princeton					671	47		3			3
7. Davenport				54	4069	3		2	7		1
8. Andalusia					1042			2	1		3
9. Muscatine	750	164		23	1395	6		1			
10. West Mercer County					1533			1		1	4
11. Burlington		3		71	3098	1			11		1
12. Keokuk	370			15	1024				22		2
Subtotals	1120	168	0	193	17759	139	1079	10	55	7	58
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		13		2	2374						
14. Sioux City	4	10		203	17589						
15. De Soto NWR	70	180		24	1931				1		
16. Omaha				4	7509						
Subtotals	74	203	0	233	29403	0	0	0	1	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County					29						
18. Decorah				2	1904						
19. Bremer County				3	2855						
20. Worth County				54	5688						
21. Mason City				200	4834	19					2
22. Spirit Lake				404	14743	5		1	2		
23. Humboldt County					494						
24. Canton					364						
Subtotals	0	0	0	663	30911	24	0	1	2	0	2
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Lost Nation					566	26		1			
26. North Linn					231						
27. Cedar Rapids		2		116	3633	5			1		
28. Iowa City				27	3831				49		
29. Amana					600	6					
30. Buchanan County					92					1	
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		2		183	21351	28			6		2
32. Eldora-Union				300	1500						
33. Marshalltown					2312						
34. Grinnell					900						
35. Ames	4	3		311	8776				2		
36. Saylorville Reservoir		2		229	2615	8		3	2	3	
37. Des Moines		1	1	201	5176	15			25	6	
38. Neal Smith NWR					116						
39. SE Webster County				4	450	145	3				
40. Boone County				3	150	1					
41. Jamaica	3	6	1	43	8776	1			1		1
42. Dallas County					46						
43. Carroll County					17						
44. Ida County					285						
Subtotals	7	16	2	1417	61423	235	3	4	86	10	3
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County					1118						
46. Red Rock Reservoir				22	967						
47. Rathbun Reservoir				17	1300				3		
48. Lamoni	48	500		3	336						
49. Union County	2		1	384	6912			2	5	1	1
50. Taylor County		2		75	1843					1	
51. Shenandoah	117	28	3	193	2839	2		1		3	2
Subtotals	167	530	4	694	15315	2	0	3	8	5	3
TOTALS	1368	917	6	3200	154811	400	1082	18	152	22	66

Ma	No Sh	No Pi	G-w Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	R-b Me	Ru Du
547						1				80	3	29		
480				2				1		3		39	3	
721				4000	3	400		100	48	125	15	14		1
153				1		1		12	5	54	3	38	4	18
762	72	2		6540	5	18	5	605	60	4250	5	421	1	250
192		1							1	11				4
989	1	6		2	2	6	4	36	11	311	3	12	1	7
253						1		24		104		12		
354		1			1	4		9		3	1	3		
3513	1	1								1				
502	2		10	32	2	15	1	40	16	4	1			52
935	90	cw	255	44700	8	199	311	208	59	1208	14	34	5	1380
9401	166	11	266	55277	21	645	321	1035	200	6154	45	602	14	1712
601										99				
7089										90				1
656		53	30			6				161		459		50
322	5	8	44					4	2	143	1	37		
8668	5	61	74	0	0	6	0	4	2	493	1	500	0	51
33														
1114														
21														
1146	cw	1		cw	2	2					2			4
235	64			22	6	7	21	20	7	278	19	153		111
95														
2644	64	1	0	22	8	9	21	20	7	278	22	153	0	115
4														
783						2		4		57	3	3		4
222			1						3	54		174		39
60														
42										1				
716	5	1	1	2	8	2		6		16	1			11
2														2
42														
29								1		2				1
247							1	1	1	2				
2844		15		1	7	4		10	1	295	7	965	4	4
621	2	2		13	4	2	1	10	4	93	9	27		64
476														
850		1			3			1						
83												26		
1063		2		1			1	1				26		15
175											cw	2		
83														
8342	7	21	2	17	22	10	3	34	9	518	20	1223	4	140
134	1													
1680			1				15	46		67		101		47
311				4		17		18		18	45	87		10
1000														
2171	7	29				3		7	7	9	1	8		19
709	1	1	1	1								2		
45000	4	22	3	3	5	94	2	7						35
51005	13	52	5	8	5	114	17	78	7	94	46	198	0	111
80060	255	146	347	55324	56	784	362	1171	225	7537	134	2676	18	2129

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2011–2012

Location	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Co Lo	P-b Gr	Am Wh Pe	D-c Co	Gr Bl He	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Ha
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest		88						1	192		
2. SE Clayton County		1						1	129		2
3. Dubuque	1	36						5	79		
4. Green Island		12						5	152	8	2
5. Clinton		12					2	14	87	2	
6. Princeton		24						3	71		2
7. Davenport		40				2	4	34	56		
8. Andalusia		12	1					3	89	3	
9. Muscatine		63				56		6	118	3	1
10. West Mercer County	2	43				1	2	16	130	1	1
11. Burlington	12	5			1	4	11	44	147	9	8
12. Keokuk		10		1		3	cw	21	170	1	2
Subtotals	15	346	1	1	1	66	19	153	1420	27	18
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield	2	88							9		1
14. Sioux City	2	246						1	22	1	1
15. De Soto NWR	4	473				1			30	3	2
16. Omaha	3	75			2			9	33	8	3
Subtotals	11	882	0	0	2	1	0	10	94	12	7
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County	4	11							125	1	
18. Decorah		57							103	3	1
19. Bremer County	2	46							22	5	1
20. Worth County		3							4		
21. Mason City	4	137							20	2	2
22. Spirit Lake	6	33			1				17		
23. Humboldt County	1								5	1	
24. Canton	6	5							12		
Subtotals	23	292	0	0	1	0	0	0	308	12	4
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Lost Nation	7	39	1					5	24	4	
26. North Linn		50							51	3	
27. Cedar Rapids		43				1	1		97	1	2
28. Iowa City	2	23			1		1		96	8	1
29. Amana	1	7						1	35	2	
30. Buchanan County									27	1	
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	3	18						1	43		1
32. Eldora-Union		7							21		
33. Marshalltown									37		
34. Grinnell	1								4		1
35. Ames	45	20							17	3	2
36. Saylorville Reservoir	10	23		1				1	73	10	2
37. Des Moines	6	74				7	4	9	75	2	4
38. Neal Smith NWR	7	5							36	2	
39. SE Webster County		1							32		
40. Boone County	7	13							61	7	
41. Jamaica	5	cw							16	2	cw
42. Dallas County	6	1							13		1
43. Carroll County	5	3							14	1	
44. Ida County	10							1	1	2	
Subtotals	115	327	1	1	1	8	6	18	773	48	16
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County	1	13						15	28	1	
46. Red Rock Reservoir	3	17		3		110	1		59	9	1
47. Rathbun Reservoir	1		15	1		1		4	54	3	1
48. Lamoni	4	20	3						49	18	3
49. Union County		5	1						4	1	2
50. Taylor County	1	53							28	5	3
51. Shenandoah	23	4	24		3				28	12	1
Subtotals	33	112	43	4	3	111	1	19	250	49	11
TOTALS	197	1959	45	6	8	186	26	200	2845	148	56

Co Ha	ac sp	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Go Ea	Am Ke	Me	Am Co	Sa Cr	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu
2			39	8	1	10				2		43		
1			27	3	4	6		2						
1			26	2		15		10				93	1	
2			58	1	1	17	1	95	3	2		720	12	
3			34	3		10		9	5	8		1213	10	
	1	1	27	1	1	30			3			49	1	
8		1	79			29			10	2		3631	90	1
2		1	50	2		1				1		326	12	
3	1		53	2		23						140	2	
			37	1	1	25				1		153	10	
5			35	3		43	1			5	1	1390	22	
cw		1	42			18		12		1	6	2030	32	cw
27	2	4	507	26	8	227	2	128	21	22	7	9788	192	1
2			29	5										
			105	6		14	1	4						
	1		101	1	3	7						3		
4	1		126			12	2	1		1	1	25		
6	2	0	361	12	3	33	3	5	0	1	1	28	0	0
			15	2	1	10								
1			46	1		5		1						
1		1	23	3		13	1	2						
2			16											
1			25			2	1	4						
1			19	1			1	645					2	
1			8			2						2		
1			33	1		4	2							
8	0	1	185	8	1	36	5	652	0	0	0	2	2	0
2			26	1		31					1			
			17	4		16								
2		1	78	2		30	2	5		1		2841	11	
5	1		110	2		25		1			1	1133	3	
	2		14	2		7				2	1			
1			10	2		5								
7		8	48	4		9		17				30	1	
			17			7								
			19	2		3						1		
			11			1								
8			129	4		10		12						
5			78	3		16	1	1				2600	110	2
2			57	3		12	5	67		2		1420	218	
			33	2		2						83		
1			26	2		2								
4	2		93			12	1					167		
2			29	1		14					3	2		
3			31	1		10				1		cw		
cw			9			7	cw							
			26			4								
42	5	9	861	35	0	223	9	103	0	6	5	8278	343	2
1						5						201	17	
3			70			18					1	2755	92	2
			31	2		37						55	29	
3		1	47	6	1	38								
2			22	1		4								
3			64	1		17								
3			73	2	1	24		48						
15	0	1	307	12	2	143	0	48	0	0	1	3012	138	2
98	9	15	2221	93	14	662	19	936	21	29	14	21108	675	5

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2011–2012

Location	Gl Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Sn Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest		154	34	74	8	2		3			
2. SE Clayton County		87		9	2	1		1			
3. Dubuque		196		19							
4. Green Island		198		33	4	10		7	6		
5. Clinton		120	21	36	3	3		4			
6. Princeton		89	23	63	6	7		1	1		
7. Davenport	3	1348		460	6	12		19	1		
8. Andalusia		216	1	22	7	2		7			
9. Muscatine		129		238	11	22		9			
10. West Mercer County		84	2	34	1	5		9	1		1
11. Burlington		224	3	113	5	1		10			
12. Keokuk		318	14	91	5	2	1	2	3		
Subtotals	3	3163	98	1192	58	67	1	72	12	0	1
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		54	4		1	1		1			1
14. Sioux City		603	60	14	3	2	1	3			
15. De Soto NWR		297		5	2	7		6			
16. Omaha		530	2	159	2	1		2			
Subtotals	0	1484	66	178	8	11	1	12	0	0	1
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County		67		5	6	9		5			
18. Decorah		127		3	4	1					
19. Bremer County		389	13	11	2	1		4			
20. Worth County		83		4		3			2		
21. Mason City		902		7	cw	1		1	1		
22. Spirit Lake		159	14	8		2	3				
23. Humboldt County		26	5			1		5			
24. Canton		414	60		1	4	1		1		
Subtotals	0	2167	92	38	13	22	4	15	4	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Lost Nation		47		145	9	3		2	3		1
26. North Linn		74		13		2		3	1		
27. Cedar Rapids	3	1357		225	5	5		4			
28. Iowa City		302	9	97		8		1			
29. Amana		100		40		5		2			2
30. Buchanan County		71	21	1	4	3		4			1
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1209		81	3	2		6			8
32. Eldora-Union		24		1		2	cw	1			
33. Marshalltown		197		1							
34. Grinnell		5		1		1		1			
35. Ames		261	40	116		7	cw	9			
36. Saylorville Reservoir	2	864	50	210	4	23	1	20	1		
37. Des Moines		601	19	72	1	5		7			
38. Neal Smith NWR		5	18	1		4		2		2	2
39. SE Webster County		52	2	1	1						
40. Boone County		243	90	57	4	6		9		cw	
41. Jamaica		21	10		4	3		2			
42. Dallas County		144		8	1	4		3	2		
43. Carroll County			58	29	cw	1	cw	3	3	1	2
44. Ida County		47	2				2	1			1
Subtotals	5	5624	319	1099	36	84	3	76	11	3	17
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County		360	2	5				1			
46. Red Rock Reservoir		62	4	44	2	2		3			
47. Rathbun Reservoir		49	1	21	19	3	1	1			
48. Lamoni		113	30	5	3	7		6	1	cw	
49. Union County	1	20	72	1				3			
50. Taylor County		113	2	2		4		8			
51. Shenandoah		78	65	13	1	9	1	7	cw		
Subtotals	1	795	176	91	25	25	2	29	1	0	0
TOTALS	9	13233	751	2598	140	209	11	204	28	3	19

Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Lo Sh	No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti
5	9	30		24	11	2	10		5	59	239	3	109	16
3	2	34	1	39	17	4	5			50	384		140	12
3		40	1	57	12	3	10		3	86	248		203	45
8	4	80	3	87	27	23	8		6	195	364	20	236	45
7	7	49	3	57	17	8	4			150	181	9	131	24
5	8	63		74	31	45	1			139	113	12	183	8
7	14	93	3	166	36	10	7			135	179	10	480	41
5	12	60	2	47	21	2	7		2	131	93	29	221	46
2	10	56	1	75	22	13	13			150	228	3	303	49
2	6	40		32	12	5	6	1	2	49	119	2	128	32
4	2	73	2	68	25	19	7			117	159	15	153	39
5	13	81		80	18	19	8			200	8039	14	199	94
56	87	699	16	806	249	153	86	1	18	1461	10346	117	2486	451
	7	22		6		34			9	23	183	10	54	
6	2	42		100	15	19			2	82	203	36	275	
1		59	2	119	22	57			2	57	396	21	298	12
12		99	1	175	31	37	1		1	72	59		295	21
19	9	222	3	400	68	147	1	0	14	234	841	67	922	33
11		57	3	75	28	5	5		3	114	250	40	229	10
6		30		37	9	2	10		5	53	397	5	126	14
2	1	16		34	7	1	1		6	62	247	2	71	
		2		14	3					30	148	20	24	
		15		49	22	1	1		4	131	5778		153	
		14		51	24	4				43	154	15	147	
		8		7	2					14	13	16	26	
1		13		21	2	2	1			36	75	1	39	
20	1	155	3	288	97	15	18	0	18	483	7062	99	815	24
2	35	28		76	20	17	2		1	163	204	24	52	11
1		24		27	3	4	1		1	57	92		93	12
6	1	75		147	36	10	6		1	102	1776		503	45
2		48		102	12	13	2		4	76	530	3	226	40
2		24		12	2	1				25	20		30	
2	3	37	1	31	11	2	2			67	143		119	12
5	2	46		78	27	4	4		3	64	5624		367	
3		20		13	4		3		3	28	75	3	40	
		6		11	4				1	24	223		20	2
		6		4	1	2				18	32		6	
8		216	1	237	51	19			5	161	9000		608	5
2		88		84	27	25	3		9	101	364	2	332	15
2		45		55	14	13	2		1	69	778	9	145	11
		22		16	2	3		1		21	106		40	7
	1	12		22	3	4				31	178		52	2
7	1	176		182	68	6			5	88	704	3	556	60
1	6	34		40	10	2	cw			31	335	3	47	6
		30		34	10	1				1	75	2	80	12
		16		37	18	2				1	17	20	21	
4		2		5	1	1				28	98	5	2	
47	49	955	2	1213	324	129	34	1	37	1246	20530	74	3339	240
		1		8		1				29	134		34	5
2		47		39	11	24			2	116	158		166	3
5	10	12		29	7	16				169	178		197	25
1	2	49		56	48	57	4		1	136	816	68	162	33
		8	1	8	6	13		1	1	51	80	2	16	
1		44	1	74	21	37		1		67	374	6	76	2
3		29		25	1	11		1	1	117	96	9	16	5
12	12	190	2	239	94	159	4	3	5	685	1836	85	667	73
154	158	2221	26	2946	832	603	143	5	92	4109	40615	442	8229	821

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2011–2012

Location	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ru Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Eu St
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	4	52	2		1			9			515
2. SE Clayton County		88	6		1	1		20		1	153
3. Dubuque	5	114	5					4		2	613
4. Green Island	1	128	43	3	11	7	1	73	9	7	782
5. Clinton	1	73	21	7		6		11		2	2015
6. Princeton	2	95	18	1	1	3		23	2	3	1537
7. Davenport		175	40	12	5	7	1	20	1	4	2820
8. Andalusia	3	103	12	3		3	1	8		3	1515
9. Muscatine		142	9	3	3	4		8	1	7	1925
10. West Mercer County		32	7	1		1		2			506
11. Burlington	3	42	6	7	3			22		15	907
12. Keokuk		66	8	25	2	3		7	1	1	2401
Subtotals	19	1110	177	62	27	35	3	207	14	45	15689
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		29	1				1	7		390	93
14. Sioux City		97	7					17		3	2303
15. De Soto NWR		145	13	1		11		77	2	26	254
16. Omaha		187	19	7	4	9	1	48		85	2080
Subtotals	0	458	40	8	4	20	2	149	2	504	4730
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County	2	139	11		5	1		28		1	443
18. Decorah	2	75	2					6		2	958
19. Bremer County		19	1								1019
20. Worth County	1	6	1								53
21. Mason City	1	30	4					cw			1617
22. Spirit Lake	4	44	5								1582
23. Humboldt County		15	1								136
24. Canton	1	24	3							3	1234
Subtotals	11	352	28	0	5	1	0	34	0	6	7042
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Lost Nation	2	40	10		1	1			1	1	1221
26. North Linn	2	25	1							1	440
27. Cedar Rapids	1	132	22	3		2		5		5	1823
28. Iowa City	1	73	1			1	1	11		2	549
29. Amana		15								1	300
30. Buchanan County	3	59	14		1	2					379
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		113	4	1		2					940
32. Eldora-Union	1	36	1				1	1			327
33. Marshalltown		10									488
34. Grinnell		24						7			32
35. Ames	1	282	54	1	1			24		12	2116
36. Saylorville Reservoir	3	114	15			2		24		11	1686
37. Des Moines		65	3	2				14		10	1060
38. Neal Smith NWR		28									162
39. SE Webster County	1	44	1								352
40. Boone County		236	17		2			28		1	2027
41. Jamaica		65	1	1	2			13		375	365
42. Dallas County		32	3			1		45	1	2	463
43. Carroll County		22	1							4	268
44. Ida County		6	1								224
Subtotals	15	1421	149	8	7	11	2	172	2	425	15222
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County		3		2				6		16	434
46. Red Rock Reservoir		49		1				58		9	480
47. Rathbun Reservoir		37	1	1	1	1		45		151	477
48. Lamoni		89	21	1				106		147	717
49. Union County		5	1					32	1	631	314
50. Taylor County		68	5					20		186	2241
51. Shenandoah		20	2		1			3		11	869
Subtotals	0	271	30	5	2	1	0	270	1	1151	5532
TOTALS	45	3612	424	83	45	68	7	832	19	2131	48215

Ce WVa	Ye Ru WVa	Am Tr Sp	Fi Sp	Sa Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca
		122				4						609			86
2		125				20		4				602			156
		84			cw	8		1	9		1	326			167
31	12	260	2	1		27		19	7		2	627			180
151	3	233			1	11		7	7			315	2	6	174
35	4	462	1			24		5	11	1	1	429	4	3	191
17	4	524	1			109	3	26	14		1	846			368
49	4	190				3			6		5	309	2	2	192
53		229				18		5	5		3	394			231
30	5	92				23		4			6	280	5		194
372		221	1			59		29	4		4	444	1		201
300	1	225		1	1	61	2	20	70		4	480	32	1	309
1040	33	2767	5	2	2	367	5	120	134	1	27	5661	46	12	2449
88		183								10		252	12		22
93	2	416			1		1		3	3	1	764	5		83
105	26	326				5		1	5	24	1	694			158
94	4	844		7	2	20		5	10	34		509			118
380	32	1769	0	7	3	25	1	6	15	71	2	2219	17	0	381
		332				15					1	518	1		75
7		32				2			1			169	30		37
10		381				4						270		24	54
		73										58	169		5
29		32							cw			301			58
		192								3		138	24		12
		46								7		54	107		29
149		55										284			11
195	0	1143	0	0	0	21	0	0	1	10	1	1792	331	24	281
9		369	1			47		2	6		4	479	1	21	288
30		305										314			111
7	2	378				10		3	4			608			416
153	2	291				15		4	5			384			217
5		250				4						60	8		22
	1	213		1		14		1			1	276	1		102
42		101				1						353			187
10		75				1						103			57
50		16										94			33
6		13								1		23			19
45	6	593			2	4			7	7	1	1001	32		410
99	3	945			1	60	1	6	11	48	4	970	60		210
7		103				10			9	2		437			138
2		205				4					1	95			55
		28				1			2	15		104			30
64		518				11		1	2	8	1	825			244
157		251				2						121			21
2		222				1		1		2		194			51
138		47				2				4		127			27
		31										37	3		1
826	14	4954	1	1	3	187	1	18	46	87	12	6605	105	21	2639
25		7										98			30
68	3	185				10	1	1	7	5		401	140		180
412	10	169				4		1	2	17	7	369			124
89		842	1	26		51		35	15	43	36	493	7		117
371		211	1		1	13		1	3			187			61
199	5	638				8				19		351			76
29		662				22	2	9	16	32	4	368	46		192
1193	18	2714	2	26	1	108	3	47	43	116	47	2267	193	0	780
3634	97	13347	8	36	9	708	10	191	239	285	89	18544	692	57	6530

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2011–2012

Location	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest			1	126		1	23	1	54	395	
2. SE Clayton County	12			3		6	40		72	555	
3. Dubuque	7						89	220	48		
4. Green Island	1	2			4	13	5	1	136	282	
5. Clinton	2011		1	1	500	11	17		27	462	
6. Princeton	31				18	10	55	10	112	1300	267
7. Davenport	12359		1	38	27	11	94	8	188	1288	34
8. Andalusia	31		1	1	501	38	6	4	65	709	86
9. Muscatine					1	16	41	8	110	630	256
10. West Mercer County	31					28	5		47	301	590
11. Burlington	122				1	7	65	6	123	341	338
12. Keokuk	cw	cw		5	cw	13	27	2	133	375	140
Subtotals	14605	2	4	175	1052	154	467	260	1115	6638	1711
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield			120	1		1	5		94	213	
14. Sioux City	1						28	6	132	590	
15. De Soto NWR	1					6	10	1	98	390	
16. Omaha		40				1	45	8	190	294	
Subtotals	2	41	120	1	0	8	88	15	514	1487	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County	5					4	40		135	785	
18. Decorah						16	65		262	214	
19. Bremer County						1	56		148	510	
20. Worth County			31				58		26	109	
21. Mason City			7	15		2	61		58	367	
22. Spirit Lake	24		6	1	7	3	32		66	602	
23. Humboldt County	39		11			2	2		13	103	
24. Canton				2		3	8		27	661	
Subtotals	68	0	55	18	7	31	322	0	735	3351	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Lost Nation	3					5	58		23	792	54
26. North Linn						9	12		24	472	
27. Cedar Rapids						7	101		171	1728	29
28. Iowa City	1	1		1	30		57	2	212	395	4
29. Amana	25	1		1	5		3		12	100	80
30. Buchanan County	21				8	4	13	2	32	623	
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	3					4	70		111	830	
32. Eldora-Union				2		1	34		42	234	
33. Marshalltown	2						18		11	324	
34. Grinnell						1	2		38	15	
35. Ames	46		1			30	242	2	307	1022	
36. Saylorville Reservoir	8	2	4	7	6	6	75		302	371	
37. Des Moines				1			21		92	367	
38. Neal Smith NWR							5		27	135	
39. SE Webster County	90			1			3		51	220	
40. Boone County	47					9	26		374	747	
41. Jamaica	70	8				7			252	158	
42. Dallas County	125	4		3	19		34	3	73	298	
43. Carroll County		1	cw			1	23		59	52	
44. Ida County				60			9	8	7	135	
Subtotals	441	17	5	76	68	84	806	17	2220	9018	167
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County						6	1		87	39	
46. Red Rock Reservoir		26		1		1	25		123	267	
47. Rathbun Reservoir		33			48	50	30		490	476	
48. Lamoni	280		20		1	26	2	1	362	316	
49. Union County		6				15	4		54	146	
50. Taylor County					16	1	5		51	101	
51. Shenandoah	70	218		1	8		21		35	529	
Subtotals	350	283	20	2	73	99	88	1	1202	1874	0
TOTALS	15466	343	204	272	1200	376	1771	293	5786	22368	1878

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2011–2012

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Iowa City (1), Marshalltown (1)
Blue-winged Teal	Rathbun (1)
Surf Scoter	Davenport (1), Burlington (3), Keokuk (2)
White-winged Scoter	Keokuk (6)
Long-tailed Duck	Burlington (2), Keokuk (cw)
duck sp.	Green Island (20), DeSoto NWR (320), Boone County (58)
Gray Partridge	Bremer County (5), Canton (3), Ames (5)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (1)
Turkey Vulture	Iowa City (1)
buteo sp.	Marshalltown (11), Boone County (1), Taylor County (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport (1), Cedar Rapids (2)
Bonaparte's Gull	Davenport (1)
Iceland Gull	Dubuque (cw)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Andalusia (1), Cedar Rapids (1), Red Rock (1)
gull sp.	Green Island (21), Neal Smith NWR (5), Boone County (1)
White-winged Dove	Shenandoah (cw)
owl sp.	Boone County (2)
shrike sp.	Western Mercer County (1), Spirit Lake (1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield (1)
Marsh Wren	Shenandoah (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Green Island (1), Burlington (1), Lamoni (4)
Brown Thrasher	Burlington (1), Dallas County (1), Lamoni (1)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Green Island (1)
Palm Warbler	Davenport (1)
Spotted Towhee	Sioux City (1), DeSoto NWR (2), Shenandoah (2)
Eastern Towhee	Davenport (1), Decorah (1), Buchanan County (1)
Chipping Sparrow	Keokuk (2)
Vesper Sparrow	Lamoni (1)
LeConte's Sparrow	Lamoni (6)
sparrow sp.	Marshalltown (6), Neal Smith NWR (6)
Eastern Meadowlark	Green Island (1), Lamoni (1)
Western Meadowlark	Sioux City (40), Canton (1), Lamoni (21)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Clinton (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Canton (150)
icterid sp.	Boone County (24)
Red Crossbill	Muscatine (2), Buchanan County (4)
White-winged Crossbill	Buchanan County (1)
Common Redpoll	Davenport (1), Andalusia (11), Mason City (9)

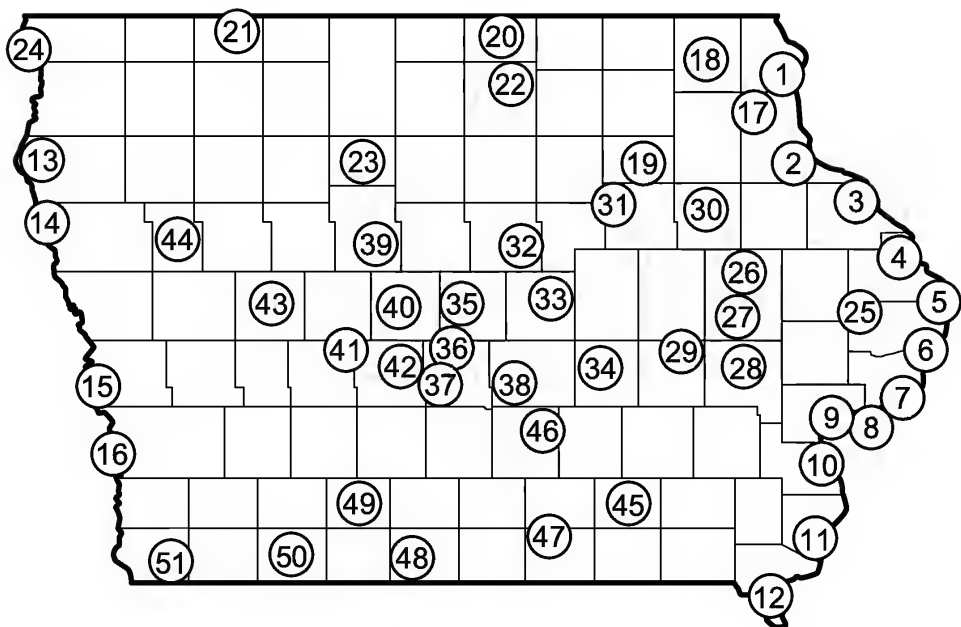


Figure 1. Christmas bird counts in Iowa, 2011–2012 (see Tables 2 and 3).

Field Reports—Winter 2011–2012

Francis L Moore



Francis L. Moore

WEATHER

The entire winter season had above normal temperatures and mild weather with precipitation above normal across much of the state. There were several minor snow events during the period but nothing that came close to being called a blizzard. Overall, it was one of the most pleasant Iowa winters weather-wise.

The first 10 days of December were on the cold side with below zero readings and a -19 degree reading on the 6th at Sheldon being the cold spot. The early cold gave way to above normal temperatures for the remaining 21 days of the month. Lamoni and Leon reached 62 degrees on the 31st. Three large storm systems kept precipitation totals well above normal for much of Iowa. The first event on the 3rd brought snowfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches over the northwest one-third of the state while portions of south central Iowa saw nearly two inches of rain. The

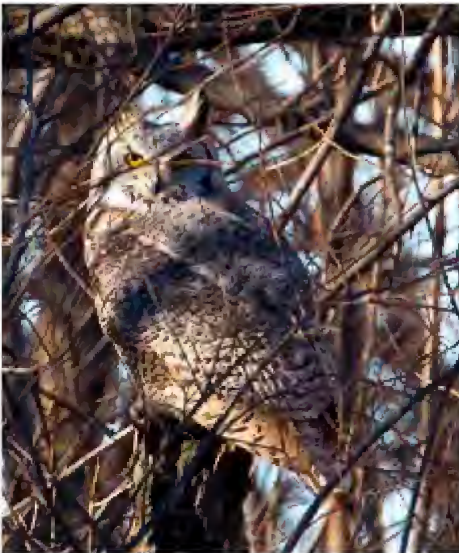
next event brought rain statewide on the 13th and 14th with an average of 0.76 inches. Heaviest rains with the second storm were over portions of southeastern Iowa where more than two inches fell. The final event on the 29th and 30th brought an average of 0.32 inch of rain with the greatest amounts across northern Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.69 inch at Lester to 3.93 inches at Mount Pleasant while snowfall totals varied from only trace amounts at some central Iowa locations to 11.3 inches at Little Sioux.

Mild weather was the rule for most of the month of January with a monthly high temperature of 68 degrees at Sioux City on the 5th and at Shenandoah on the 30th. The persistent warmth resulted in dangerously thin ice cover on lakes and ponds. On the other extreme Elkader and Spencer reported low temperatures of -21 degrees on the 21st; Estherville reported a -30 degree wind chill on the 19th. Snow was more substantial than in December, but still less than normal in most areas. The exception was in northeastern Iowa where some locations received nearly double the usual January snow amounts with Guttenberg reporting the most with 17.5 inches. Totals were far below normal in the southwest where Logan recorded only 0.6 inch of snow. The biggest snow event of the month came on the 20th when amounts of 4 to 7 inches fell over most of the northeast one-half of Iowa. At month's end snow cover was restricted to northeastern and extreme northern Iowa.

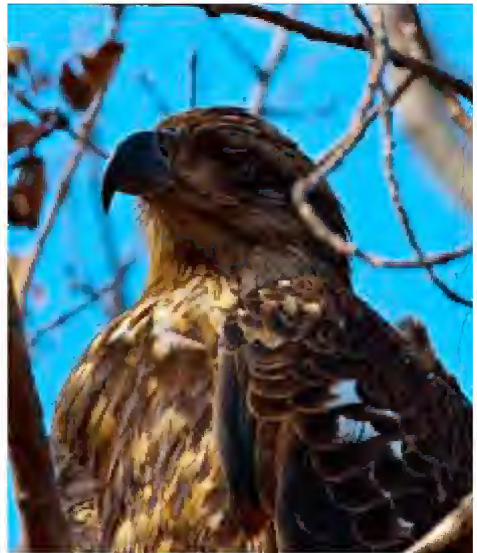
Above normal temperatures continued for most of February. The warmest weather



Great Black-backed Gull, Lock and Dam 14, Scott, 9 February 2012. Photograph by Jim Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.



Great Horned Owl, Woodbury, 23 December 2011. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Bald Eagle, Fremont, 26 December 2011. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Northern Saw-whet Owl, Boone, 6 January 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



American Tree Sparrow, Fremont, 26 December 2011. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Short-eared Owl, Woodbury, 7 January 2012. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Common Redpoll, Kennedy Memorial P, Webster, 29 January 2012. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Savannah Sparrow, Boone, 23 January 2012. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

came at the beginning and end of the month with Shenandoah reaching 61 degrees on the 1st and Keokuk and Keosauqua climbing to 62 degrees on the 26th. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded on only three dates (the 11th, 12th and 25th) with Atlantic the cold spot at -13 degrees on the 12th. A series of five storm systems brought most of the month's precipitation. The first event on the 3-4 February affected only the southern one-half of Iowa; it began as rain, but quickly changed to snow with accumulations of 5 to 9 inches. Later storms mostly tracked across northern Iowa and brought welcome relief from severe drought conditions in the northwestern part of the state. The storm of 13-14 February brought snow statewide with greatest amounts in northwestern Iowa where 3 to 5 inch totals were common. The next event on 20-21 February brought mostly rain with amounts to nearly an inch at a few northwestern Iowa locations. Another storm on 23-24 February began as rain but turned to snow statewide with a few northwest and northeast locations seeing more than 6 inches of snow. Finally, the largest precipitation event came on 28-29 February with rain falling statewide. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.64 inch at Ionia to 3.26 inches at Bedford.

Temperatures for the three winter months averaged 6.6 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 1.17 inches above normal. This ranks as the 9th warmest and the 20th wettest winter among 139 years of records. This winter was a huge contrast to recent Iowa winters, and was preceded by five consecutive snowier than normal and four consecutive colder than normal winter seasons.

GENERAL TRENDS

Birding was very good most of the time with mild temperatures and enough snow events to help those that ventured out find some winter visitors from the north. For the most part waterfowl were found throughout the period and had open water to be able to stay north more than usual. Cold temperatures with sub zero readings were recorded for short periods but not long enough to freeze most water enough to make them go south for most of the winter. Almost all species that linger north most winters were found during all three months. Numbers of diving ducks were higher than normal this winter also. There seemed to be larger numbers found after February 15th as they started their northward migrations.

This winter even more American White Pelicans wintered below the dam at Red Rock Reservoir with 75 to 100 staying through the period. Great Blue Herons were again found in higher than normal numbers some away from major rivers. Bald Eagles were found in good numbers in the usual locations. *Accipiters* were fairly easy to find in the vicinity of feeders with above average numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks found and the usual number of Cooper's again this winter. Rough-legged Hawks were in the state in good numbers and there were higher numbers of Northern Shrike present than in recent years.

This seemed to be a good year to look for gulls with high numbers being found and several rarer birds making an appearance. Snowy Owls outdid themselves this winter requiring a separate report to deal with all of the records. Good numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls were found as well. One of the major disappointments was the lack of records for the Gallinaceous species. No records outside the Christmas Bird Counts were submitted for Northern Bobwhite, Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant or Ruffed Grouse. Only 2

records of Wild Turkey were submitted as well. It will take a combination of good weather for nesting in the spring and early summer and milder winters for these populations to recover to more normal numbers.

Red-headed Woodpecker and Sapsucker numbers remain low. With small amounts of snow cover it was difficult to find Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. Numbers of wintering sparrows were higher than usual with the warmer than normal winter temperatures. Winter finches were in decent numbers this winter if one made the road trip to find them.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

It was a fairly active winter for the records committee this season. They accepted nine documentations this winter with casual and accidental species reviewed, those being Iceland Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Curve-billed Thrasher, Bullock's Oriole and Hoary Redpoll. For gull watchers this made the season at least interesting but not overwhelming for number of species seen and the above normal number of Northern Shrike records also made the winter easier to bear.

COMMENT

Winter birds were in pretty good numbers for the period and with warmer weather it was a good season to be a birder. I again want to thank those that did get out and about and helped to provide material for this report.

It was good to see good detail on some of the rarer species come with the documentations that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for both rare and for common species on unusual dates. Without this information some species cannot be included in the report and an important species might be left out of the records that should be included, only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short brief physical description of the bird that would allow for separation from any similar species. For many species, this can be one short sentence. It doesn't take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time make yourself aware of when some of our species are out of season and take short notes to make sure of the record.

If you have internet access and have not tried to submit your reports through the website, please do so. It is easy to enter your records as you encounter them or near the end of the season. Remember, if you don't enter your report into the website, the field reports editors have to do it for you, and the time it takes one person to enter several people's reports becomes substantial very quickly. I again want to thank Tom Schilke of Waterloo for helping to enter those records that were submitted by either email or by sending them to me via another paper method.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations

used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res**

= reservoir, R = river, SP = state park, WA = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Largest numbers overwintering was 21 on 31 Jan at Diehl Wetlands Warren (JS) and 16 on 16 Feb at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD). The first large numbers of migrants were 400 on 18 Feb at Diehl Wetlands Warren (JS) with high counts of 3,690 on 25 Feb at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD), and 2,500 on 26 Feb at Jester Park Polk (BE).

Snow Goose: Small numbers were found in all three months with 3,000 on 2 Feb at Forney L Fremont (KDY) starting a somewhat early migration.

Ross's Goose: A total of 15 was found on 9 different days throughout the period with the largest number being 6 on 28 Jan at sand pits near Morningstar Airport Polk (AB).

Cackling Goose: Higher than normal temperatures seems to have resulted in greater than normal numbers of this species being seen throughout the period with no fewer than 14 reports above 100 individuals. High: 400 on 28 Jan at sand pits near Morningstar Airport Polk (AB) and 346 on 2 Feb at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD).

Canada Goose: Flocks of 1,000 to 10,500 were fairly common throughout the period at various locations around the state. The largest mid-winter concentrations were 9,000 on 17 Dec to 27 Feb at Port Neal Ponds Woodbury (TLu) and 7,200 2 Feb at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD).

Mute Swan: 3 ad on 8-10 Dec at Sand Lake WA Johnson (JLF,CRE), 1 on 22 Dec at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JLF), 1 ad on 8-16 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits Polk (SJD,ABJG), 1 free-flying ad on 3-18 Feb at Hallett's Quarry Polk (JG, RA, JB), and 1 on 8 Feb at West Branch Sewage Ponds Cedar (CRE) were the only records.

Trumpeter Swan: Reported from 17 counties again this year. Numbers at Beemer's Pond Hamilton through the winter: 229 on 24 Dec, 210 on 22 Jan, 88 on 8 Feb (SJD). High counts at other locations were 12 on 5 Dec at Maffitt Res Polk (JG), 46 on 14 Jan at Maffitt Res Polk (JG), and 38 on 1 Feb Smith L Kossuth (MCK).

Tundra Swan: All: 3 ad 21 Dec-7 Jan at Beemer's Pond Hamilton (SJD, JG), 1 ad on 29 Dec-2 Jan at West Okoboji L Dickinson (SJD, LAS), and 1 ad at Hallett's Quarry Polk (JG, JB, AB).

Wood Duck: Late migrants were 3 on 9 Dec at Bay's Branch WA Guthrie (RLC), spring migration began with 1 male and 1 female on 26 Feb at L Ahquabi SP Warren (JS) and 4 on 28 Feb at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD).

Gadwall: Up to 4 1-31 Dec through 5-7 Jan at Ada Hayden P Story (WO) lingered this fall, a high of 34 on 28 Jan were found in Allamakee (DK). Spring migration seemed to start with 2 on 17 Feb again in Allamakee (DK) and 9 on 19 Feb at Little Wall L Hamilton (SJD).

American Wigeon: All: 2 males on 8 Jan at Maffitt Res Dallas (JG), 1 on 26 Feb at Sand L WA Marshall (MP), and 1 female on 26 Feb at New L Woodbury (BFH).

American Black Duck: All but one record was from east and central Iowa again this season. High numbers were: 8 on 11 Dec on a farm pond in Clinton (CRE), 13 on 16 Jan at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD), and 3 on 19 Jan at Polk City WA Polk (BE).

Mallard: The highest number reported was 6,750 at Red Rock Res Marion on 26 Feb (SJD). Other large groups were 4,650 on 13 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD) and 5,000 on 22 Jan at Riverton WA Freemont (KDY).

Northern Shoveler: Highest numbers were 165 on 5 Dec at Slater Sewage Lagoon

Story (SJD) and 10 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD) with migrants showing up with 3 on 14 Feb at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG).

Northern Pintail: 10 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) were late migrants. Highest number returning was 1,610 26 Feb at Hartford WA *Warren* (SJD), next highest was 1,000 on 26 Feb at Jester P *Polk* (BE).

Green-winged Teal: Fall high was 1,700 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). 1-3 individuals were found in 12 counties during Dec, Jan, and Feb with 3 on 22 Feb at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS) being the highest returning migrants.

Canvasback: 32 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD) were late. Highest number was 16,300 on 29 Jan on Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) again this season. High spring count was 86 on 26 Feb at Jester P *Polk* (BE).

Redhead: 20 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (WO) was the highest fall count. 14 were present on 28 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (SJD). Spring migrants began showing up with 4 on 6 Feb at Saylorville Res below dam *Polk* (DTh) with a high of 68 on 23 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: High fall: 127 on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). Most other records were one or two birds with 206 on 22 Jan at Riverton WA *Fremont* (Kdy) and 173 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) and a high spring count of 48 on 26 Feb at Hartford WA *Warren* (SJD).

Greater Scaup: From 1-6 were reported from *Story*, *Clinton*, *Dickinson*, *Marion*, *Dallas*, *Scott*, *Lee* and *Polk* (WO, SJD, CRE, JG, AB, AMJ, JB, WMZ). The greatest number was 20 on 13 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 77 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Lesser Scaup: High count: 142 on 29 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD). Away from the Mississippi R, high count was 91 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD).

Surf Scoter: All: 1 imm on 2 Dec at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD), 2 imm on 19 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), and 1 imm on 29 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: An amazing total of 20 were found in Dec and Jan: 2 on 2 Dec at L&D 13 *Clinton* (JF), 2 on 7 Dec at LeClaire *Scott* (WMZ), 1 on Dec 10 at Pool 19 *Lee* (JLF), 6 on Dec 19 at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 2 on 24 Dec at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc), 1 on 6-8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, JB, JG, DTh), 1 on 13 Jan at Pool 15 *Scott* (JF), 1 on 21 Jan at Davenport *Scott* (JLF), and 4 on 25 Jan at Bettendorf *Scott* (JF).

Black Scoter: All: 1 on 7 Dec 1 mile north of LeClaire *Scott* (WMZ).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 male on 6 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 1 female on 9 Dec at Alden *Hardin* (MP), 1 juv male on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 1 on 10 Dec on Pool 19 *Lee* (JLF), 1 on 11 Dec at Pool 13 *Clinton* (CRE), 1 on 16 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (JCe), 4 on 9 Jan at Keokuk, just above the dam *Lee* (JLF), 4 juv on 9 Jan Pool 19 *Lee* (JWR), 2 on 11 Jan at Lake Davenport Sailing Club, Davenport *Scott* (WMZ), 3 ad males and 1 juv on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), and 1 ad male on 25 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Bufflehead: 1-4 on 1-8 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO, SJD), 1 on 11 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), a high for the period was 7 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD), with 1 on 8-16 Jan at the Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (SJD,AB), and 6 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Common Goldeneye: High counts from Dec were 1181 on 10 Dec and 1416 on 28 Dec both at Red Rock Res *Marion*

(SJD), high counts for Jan were 961 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 2660 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) returning migrants along the Missouri showed up with 52 on 21 Feb at Snyder's Bend *Woodbury* (TLu) and 43 on 21 Feb at New L *Woodbury* (TLu).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 on 8-16 Dec at Pool 13 *Clinton* (JF) continued from the fall.

Hooded Merganser: High: 153 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Midwinter birds: 5 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD). Highest northbound were 16 on 25 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Common Merganser: High counts: 11,700 on 28 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 11,800 on 8 Jan again at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Overwintering birds included over 1,440 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD). Migrants started on 12 Feb with a high count of 2,120 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Red-breasted Merganser: All: 20 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (WO), 8 on 28 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 2 on 29 Dec on West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD), 1-2 on 4-8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, SJD), and 1 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Ruddy Duck: High: 69 on 2 Dec at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD). Midwinter high counts included 52 on 28 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 95 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD), and 617 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Northern Bobwhite: None reported.

Gray Partridge: None reported.

Ring-necked Pheasant: None reported.

Ruffed Grouse: None reported.

Wild Turkey: High: 47 on 6 Jan at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG) and 26 on 18 Feb at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS).

Red-throated Loon: 1 on 4-11 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD ph, JG, AB)

Common Loon: 1-4 were seen on 8 days in Dec at many locations including Red Rock Res *Marion* (AMJ, SJD, AB), Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB), George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WO), Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) with a final record on 2 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Pied-billed Grebe: All: 4 on 3 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WO), 1 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (SJD), and 1 on 14 Jan in *Muscatine* (KMc).

Horned Grebe: All: 8 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 3 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 1 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 1 on 13 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Western Grebe: 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD)

Double-crested Cormorant: All: 1 on 1 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 12 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 1 on 28 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

American White Pelican: High: 103 on 28 Dec below the dam at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Wintering birds included from 48 to 84 below the dam at Red Rock Res *Marion* from 10-16 Jan (AMJ, MP, SJD), 2 on 25-28 Jan below the dam at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DK, DTh), and 3 on 29 Jan below the dam at L&D 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Great Blue Heron: High count: 66 on 1 Jan at Waubonsie WA *Fremont* (KDy). Wintering birds included up to 11 throughout Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (AB, BE).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: None reported.

Turkey Vulture: All: 1 found dead (apparently hit by a vehicle along the road) on 11 Dec south of Slater in *Polk* (AB) and 2 on 30 Jan at Montrose *Lee* (JWR).

Bald Eagle: High counts for both the interior and the Mississippi River were again higher than last year with 381 on 13

Jan on the Mississippi R *Scott* (KMc), 495 on 29 Jan in *Lee* (SJD) and 366 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Northern Harrier: 1–11 were reported in Dec with a high count of 11 on 24 Dec in *Wayne* (AB), a high of 5 was found on 15 Jan in *Clarke* (JG), and 2 was the highest number found on 21 Feb at Luton WMA *Woodbury* (TLu) and 2 on 22 Feb at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS). A total of 45 were found throughout the period in all areas of the state.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A total of 8 were reported, all from the middle part of the state except 1 from *Scott*.

Cooper's Hawk: 32 were reported for the period with most (21) coming from Ada Hayden Park *Story* (WO) possibly being the same individual. Other singles were found in Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV), Colo *Story* (MP), Cleves *Hardin* (MP), *Muscantine* (KMc), Buckeye *Hardin* (MP), Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (DTh), Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABl), Ackley *Hardin* (MP) and Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (TLu). This is a species that consistently uses bird feeding stations throughout the state and is underreported, especially in larger cities where bird feeders are more prevalent.

Northern Goshawk: 1 on 24 Dec in *Chickasaw* (CLJ) and 1 on 19 Feb at Maffitt Res *Polk* (*LS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Again all reports were from known or potential breeding locations. Reports away from eastern Iowa were 1 on 26 Feb at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS).

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Harlan's morph on 10 Dec at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (AB), 1 Harlan's morph on 24 Dec in *Wayne* (AB), 1 juv Harlan's morph on 7 Jan in *Polk* (JG), 1 all white leucistic bird on 8 Jan at Marshalltown *Marshall* (MP), 1 Harlan's morph on 8 Jan at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 1

Harlan's morph on 28 Jan in *O'Brien* (LAS), 1 Harlan's morph on 12 Feb in *Polk* (AB), and 1 rufous western morph on 23 Feb in *Story* (SJD).

Rough-legged Hawk: 26 reports totaling more than 45 birds during the season. High counts: 8 on 24 Dec in *Wayne* (AB) and 7 on 15 Jan in *Clarke* (JG). There was only one report of a dark morph on 4 Feb at Harrier Marsh *Boone* (LGD).

Golden Eagle: All: 1 imm on 14 Dec near Stanhope in *Hamilton* (SJD), 1 imm on 17 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy), 1 on 13 Jan at Wellsburg *Grundy* (MP), and 1 imm on 19 Jan *Allamakee* (DK).

American Kestrel: 52 reports with 15 on 10 Dec in *Warren* (JS), 12 on 24 Dec in *Wayne* (AB), and 16 on 15 Jan in *Clarke* (JG) being the highest daily counts reported.

Merlin: 20 were reported from 15 counties with only 2 from Glendale Cemetery *Polk* this winter (AB). Of those reporting subspecies 6 were *columbarius* race and 6 were the *richardsoni* race.

Peregrine Falcon: All: 1 on 15 Dec–28 Feb in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc), 1 on 9 Jan in Burlington *Des Moines* (JWR, JLF), and 1 on 16 Jan in Davenport *Scott* (JLF, KMc).

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 8 Dec southwest of Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

American Coot: Largest numbers were 446 on 29 Dec at West Okoboji *Dickinson* (SJD), 19–38 on 8–16 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (SJD, DTh, AB). Returning migrants were 1 on 23 Feb at Big Creek L *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 27 Feb at New L *Woodbury* (TLu), and 2 on 27 Feb at Brown's L *Woodbury* (TLu).

Sandhill Crane: All: 2–6 on 3–10 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy), 3 on 7 Dec at Princeton WA *Scott* (WMZ), 5 on 25 Feb at Otter Creek Marsh *Tama* (JF), 2 on 28 Feb at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD), 1 on 28 Feb at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS).

Killdeer: High: 10 on 29 Jan at Montrose Marsh *Lee* (SJD), returning migrants began on 20 Feb with 1 at Diamond L *Poweshiek* (MP) with highest count of 12 on 26 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RIA).

Dunlin: 1 juv 3 Dec at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD, ph)

Wilson's Snipe: All: 1 on 23 Dec at Ames *Story* (SJD), 2 on 1 Jan in Warren (JS), 1 on 5 Jan on Shellrock R *Worth* (CRN), 1 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 6–14 on 9–29 Jan at Montrose Marsh *Lee* (JWR, JLF, SJD), and 1 on 19 Jan in Winneshiak (DK).

American Woodcock: 3 on 27 Feb in Jefferson (DCP).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 ad on 31 Dec–1 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*AB ph, JG).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: 2–6 on 2–3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (LGR, SJD), 1 on 21 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1–5 on 23–28 Jan on Mississippi at L&D 14/15 *Scott* (JLF, JF, JG, WMZ), and 1 on 29 Jan at L&D 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Franklin's Gull: All: 1 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 1 on 21 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 22 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (RLC), and 1 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD)

MEW GULL: 1 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts: 5,420 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 4,180 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 3,000 on 29 Jan at pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), and 9,600 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Spring migrants were noted back on 17 Feb at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD) and Rapp P *Page* (KDY).

Herring Gull: High counts: 675 on 10 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 915 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 400 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).



Lesser Black-backed Gull, Polk, 10 December 2011. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Thayer's Gull: 1 ad and 3 juv on 3 Dec–12 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD, DTh), 1 ad and 4 juv on 10 Dec–26 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, ABJG,), 1 juv on 16 Dec–29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (JCe, SJD), and 1 ad and 1 juv on 26 Jan–11 Feb at L&D 14, L&D15 *Scott* (JLF, KMc, JLF, RLC).

ICELAND GULL: 1 juv on 10–26 Dec at Saylorville Res/*Polk* County Landfill *Polk* (*SJD ph, AB), 1 juv on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (*SJD), 1 ad on 6 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (*JF ph), and 1 ad 22 Feb L&D 15 *Scott* (*JF ph).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 1 ad on 3–10 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 ad on 10 Dec–8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, JG), 1 on 13–29 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1 on 17 Dec at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF), 1 on 18 Jan at Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF), 1 ad on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 1 on 31 Dec–29 Feb at Cedar Lake *Linn* (JF, JLF), 1–4 on 8–11 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, RLC), and 4 on 18 Feb north of Iowa City *Johnson* (JLF).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1 on 1–3 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1 juv on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 2 juv on 3–10 Dec

at in *Polk* (SJD), 1 juv 3-4 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WO, LGR), 1 juv on 11 Dec at Three Mile L *Union* (AB), 2 on 13-17 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1 juv on 14 Dec at Twelve Mile L *Union* (SJD), 1 on 17-31 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1 juv 18 Dec-12 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 juv on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 1 juv on 9 Jan at Fort Madison Riverfront P *Lee* (JWR, JLF), 1 1st cycle on 13 Jan at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KMc), 1 2nd winter on 18 Jan at Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF), 1 juv on 29 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), and 2-3 juv on 11 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, RLC).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 1 1st cycle on 9 Jan at Fort Madison Riverfront P *Lee* (*JWR ph, JLF), 1 juv on 26-31 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (*JF ph, WMZ, JLF), 1 juv on 9-11 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (*JF ph, RLC).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Highest numbers were 36-47 on 18-26 Dec at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (JB, AB), 20 on 5 Feb at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (DTh).

White-winged Dove: None reported

Mourning Dove: Few were reported. High count: 35 on 28 Jan in *Muscatine* (KMc).

Eastern Screech-Owl: High: 6 on 2 Jan at Westfield *Plymouth* (BFH).

Great Horned Owl: There were only five reports of 6 individuals of this common species during the period.

Snowy Owl: After 14 fall records, another 138 were counted during the winter months of which 29 were confirmed dead. 91 were found in December, 38 in January, and 10 in February. Owls were recorded in 53 counties, mostly in the west and central. A separate report is being written to document this winter's invasion in Iowa.

Barred Owl: There were only three reports of this common species.

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 on 17 Dec

in *Cerro Gordo* (PH), 2 on 18 Dec at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), 2 on 26 Dec at Pleasant Creek *Linn* (BSc), 1 on 4 Jan at Union Grove SP *Tama* (MP), 4 on 8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 1 on 10 Jan at Liscomb *Marshall* (MP), 2 on 16 Jan-20 Feb In *Worth* (CRN), 8 on 26 Jan at Hooper WA *Warren* (JS), and 1 on 26 Feb at Saylorville Res-Lincoln Access *Polk* (JG).

Short-eared Owl: 1-3 were reported on 15 dates throughout the period with a high count of 8 on 6 Dec at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (TLu, GLV).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 14 reports and a total of 21 birds were found throughout the period with the highest number of 3 on 21 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JS) and 4 on 10 Feb at Moorehead P *Ida* (GLV).

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 18 reports were submitted with 22 individuals with the highest being 4 on 14 Jan in *Scott* (KMc). The northernmost were 1 each on 1 Dec in *Winneshiek* (DK) and *Allamakee* (DK).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 10 reports this winter. High: 5 on 10 Jan at Five Ridge Prairie in *Plymouth* (TLu) with most being one to three individuals being reported.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: There were only 5 reports of this species this winter with all of the reports coming from the middle third of the state. The high count was 2 on 19 Feb at Pammel Woods *Story* (PDBS).

Northern Flicker: Only 1 report was submitted with 2 found on 2 Jan in *Plymouth* (GLV).

Pileated Woodpecker: A total of 11 reports of 13 individuals, most from the eastern half of the state, but 1 on 17 Feb in *O'Brien* was notable (DK).

Loggerhead Shrike: All: 1 on 3 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy) and 1 on 14 Dec in *Union* (SJD).



*Northern Shrike, Union, 14 December 2011.
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Northern Shrike: There were an amazing 57 reports this winter scattered over most of the state. The southernmost were 1 on 9 Jan south of Fort Madison *Lee* (JWR, JLF) and 1 on 22 Jan at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy).

Horned Lark: High: 300 on 22 Jan in *Webster* (SJD).

Tufted Titmouse: Only 1 report of 6 was reported on 28 Jan at McHose Park *Boone* (WO).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9 reports of this species mostly from the southern half of the state. High: 4 on 7 Jan at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (SJD).

Brown Creeper: There were 15 reports with 36 individuals included. The highest numbers were 7 on 18 Dec at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS). The northern most record was 2 on 17 Dec in the Shellrock Greenbelt *Cerro Gordo* (CRN).

Carolina Wren: Good numbers were reported this season with a total of 9 reports

of 14 individuals with 1 on 4 Jan at Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV) north and west of the expected range. Most reports were of 1 or 2 individuals most from the southern and eastern part of the state, the high was 6 on 29 Jan in *Lee* (SJD).

Winter Wren: Non-CBC reports: 1 on 3 Dec at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS), 1 on 10 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), 1 on 9 Jan at Burlington *Des Moines* (JWR), 1 on 3 Feb at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy), 1 on 9-15 Feb at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh, RIA), 1 on 15 Feb at Ledges SP *Boone* (JS), and 1 on 17 Feb in *Lee* (DK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: All: 2 on 1 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AMJ), 2 on 10 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), 1 on 11 Dec at Eagle Point *Clinton* (CRE), 2 on 11 Dec at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS), 1 on 18 Dec near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 1 on 28 Jan at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS), and 3 on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 on 3 Jan at Mill Dam Road *Des Moines* (JWR).

Eastern Bluebird: Moderate numbers were reported across the state. High: 39 on 11 Dec at Three Mile L *Union* (AB), 25 on 4 Dec in *Warren* (JS) and 12 on 10 Jan at Five Ridge Prairie *Plymouth* (TLu).

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 4 Dec in *Clarke* (JS).

Hermit Thrush: All: 1 on 4 Dec in *Madison* (JS), 1 on 14 Dec at Three Mile L *Union* (SJD), and 2 on 24 Dec and 14 Jan at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS).

American Robin: Numbers were down this winter with a high of only 320 on 2 Jan at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (TLu) and 186 on 2 Jan at Deer Creek L *Plymouth* (GLV). Only 4 other individuals were reported for the period.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER: 1 on 5 Feb near Lucas in *Lucas* (*SJD, ph) continued from the fall season.

Cedar Waxwing: Highest numbers were: 373 on 14 Dec in *Union* (SJD) and 120 on 18 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Lapland Longspur: Highest numbers were 5,000 on 27 Feb in *Woodbury* (TLu), 425 on 22 Jan in *Kossuth* (SJD), 400 on 7 Dec in *Woodbury* (GLV) and 400 on 22 Jan in *Webster* (SJD).

Snow Bunting: Largest flocks for the period were: 45 on 21 Jan in *Boone* (JG) and 22 on 22 Jan in *Kossuth* (SJD).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12 records reported: Highest: 5 on 10 Dec Elk Rock SP *Marion* (SJD), 2 on 18 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), 2 on 16 Jan at Elk Rock SP *Marion* (MP), and 2 on 25 Feb at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (AB).

Pine Warbler: 1 on 18 Feb at the residence of Ellen Bell Ridgeway *Winneshiek* (*EMB, ph).

Spotted Towhee: All: 2 on 17 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (K Dy) and 1 on 22 Jan-1 Feb at Cardinal Marsh *Winneshiek* (EMB, ph).

Eastern Towhee: All: 1 on 7 Dec at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 1 on 24 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (K Dy), and 1 on 8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

American Tree Sparrow: Only 1 report of 100 on 15 Feb at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

Chipping Sparrow: 1 on 10-28 Feb in *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Field Sparrow: 1 on 14 Dec at Three Mile L *Union* (SJD).

Vesper Sparrow: 1 on 7 Jan in *Franklin* (SJD).

Savannah Sparrow: 1 on 22 Jan at Sparks Cemetery area *Boone* (LGD) and 1 on 26 Feb at Snyder's Bed *Woodbury* (BFH).

Le Conte's Sparrow: 1 on 12 Feb at Jester P *Polk* (*BE).

Fox Sparrow: 1 on 17 Dec at Brown's

L *Woodbury* (BFH) and on 18 Feb in *Greene* (SJD).

Song Sparrow: 1 or 2 individuals found throughout the period from *Jefferson*, *Kossuth*, *Monona*, *Polk*, *Story* and *Woodbury*.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 on 17 Dec at Red Rock L *Marion* (SJD) and 1 on 18 Dec in *Polk* (SJD, ph).

Swamp Sparrow: High count: 9 on 22 Jan at Riverton WA *Fremont* (K Dy).

White-throated Sparrow: High count: 12 on 26 Feb in *Warren* (JS). Only 3 additional records were reported in *Harrison*, *Polk* and *Winneshiek*.

Harris's Sparrow: 16 Records mostly in the southern half of the state: Highest count: 14 on 2 Jan in *Polk* (SJD), 8 on 2 Jan at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (TLu), and 6 on 25 Feb in *Polk* (AB).

White-crowned Sparrow: 16 records in the southern or eastern portions of the state: Highest counts: 33 on 22 Jan at Riverton WA *Fremont* (K Dy) and 17 on 6 Dec at Red Rock L *Marion* (SJD).

Dark-eyed Junco: 1 Oregon on 24 Jan at Ames *Story* (SJD).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 on 16 Feb at feeder of Charlotte and Jerry Goodlaxen in Emmetsburg *Palo Alto* (LAS) apparently over-wintered there.

Red-winged Blackbird: Highest count was 5,000 on 29 Feb in *Polk* (JG).

Western Meadowlark: 2 heard on 25 Feb in *Polk* (RLC).

meadowlark, sp. Highest numbers: 30 on 17 Dec in *Woodbury* (BFH), 30 on 10 Jan at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 9 on 28 Jan at in *Marshall* (MP), and 6 on 7 Feb in *Polk* (DTh).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 on 20 Dec at Sabula *Jackson* (*Pam Steinhaus).

Rusty Blackbird: High count: 56 on 24 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (K Dy) and 120 on 2 Jan at Broken Kettle Grasslands



White-winged Crossbill, Kennedy Memorial P, Webster, 29 January 2012. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

Plymouth (TLu). From 1–12 were reported from eight other counties.

Brewer's Blackbird: 1 ad male on 12 Jan at the Curt Nelson farm *Cerro Gordo* (CRN, good details). Always remember that winter reports require details or photos.

Common Grackle: only 1–5 were reported with a high of on 5 Dec at Ottosen *Humboldt* (JN).

Great-tailed Grackle: 54 on 24 Dec at I-29 and US Hwy 34 Mills (KDy).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High count: 38 on 15 Jan at a feed lot in *Clarke* (JG).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: 1 from 29 Jan–20 Feb at the home of Gail Masinda in Otumwa *Wapello* (*CRE, DTh, RIA).

Purple Finch: Only 9 reports. High counts: 40 on 28 Jan at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS) and 14 on 9 Feb Big Creek L *Polk* (SJD).

House Finch: Only 1 report of 10 on 14 Jan at *Humboldt Humboldt* (ABl).

Red Crossbill: All: 3 on 2 Dec at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD), 5 on 24 Dec at Springdale Cemetery *Clinton* (JF), 1 probable type 3 male on 8 Jan at Riverside Cemetery *Clay* (LAS), and 1–2 on 21–24 Jan at Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (JLF, WMZ).

White-winged Crossbill: 22 reports with up to 100 individuals the first being 2 on 9 Jan at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF) with many varied locations, mostly from the northern and western part of the state. The highest totals were 40 on 19 Jan at *Algonia Kossuth* (MCK), 75 on 28 Jan at Hartley Cemetery



Common Redpoll, F. W. Kent Park, Johnson, 30 January 2012. Photograph by Jean Allgood, Iowa City, IA.

O'Brien (LAS), 40 on 21 Feb at Sioux City Woodbury (GLV), 40 on 21 Feb at Graceland Cemetery Woodbury (BFH), 100 on 22 Feb at Graceland Cemetery Woodbury (TLu), and 80 on 29 Feb at Lincoln Hwy (E41) bridge on the Des Moines R Boone (DCH). It seems that this winter was a good year for crossbills in the state.

Common Redpoll: Common Redpolls are usually hard to find in Iowa but this year there were 27 reports submitted. They included high numbers of 11 on 8 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits Polk (SJD), 11 on 8 Jan at Riverside Cemetery Clay (LAS), 12 on 14 Jan at Headquarters Segment Hardin (MP), 30 on 28 Jan at Kennedy Memorial P Webster (MHB), 17 on 2 Feb at Plymouth

Cemetery Cerro Gordo (CRN), 33 on 11 Feb at Story Lake Cemetery Buena Vista (LAS), 17 on 18 Feb at Sibley Cemetery Osceola (LAS), and 20 on 18 Dec in Warren (JS).

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 on 11 Feb at Storm Lake Cemetery Buena Vista (*LAS).

Pine Siskin: 13 reports. Highest counts: Up to 28 on 1 Dec-29 Feb at Fairmont Cemetery Scott (WMZ), up to 15 on 10 Dec-29 Feb at Sioux City Woodbury (GLV), and 13 on 18 Feb in Webster (SJD).

American Goldfinch: High count: 8 on 30 Jan in Humboldt Humboldt (ABI).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 8 on 2 Dec in Buffalo Scott (WMZ), 19 on 17 Dec in Cedar Rapids Linn (BSc), and 3 on 9 Jan at Green Bay Bottoms Lee (JWR).

CONTRIBUTORS

Reid Allen	RIA	Pleasant Hill	Corey Lange	CJL	Lenox
Ellen Bell	EMB	Ridgeway	Tucker Lutter	TLu	Bronson
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Kelly McKay	KMc	Hampton, IL
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Aaron Brees	AB	Des Moines	Francis L Moore	FLM	Waterloo
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
John Cecil	JCe	Des Moines	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
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Larry Dau	LGD	Boone	Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
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Keith Dyche	KDy	Shenandoah	Linda Rudolph	LGR	Coralville
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon	John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale	William Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
Jim Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids	Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo
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Doug Harr	DCH	Ogden	Jim Sinclair	JS	Indianola
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Bullock's Oriole in Wapello County

Gail Masinda

Even though I live in Ottumwa, my backyard is large and includes a wooded area that opens onto a ravine. In my home, the best seat in the house for birding is in my music studio. The room is small, but faces the backyard and is completely windowed on three sides. In late November 2011, at dusk, I was playing the piano and my husband was listening. When I stopped playing at the end of the song, instead of commenting on the music, he just nodded his head toward the window and asked, "What's that?" I didn't know, but the flash of orange-yellow told me it was something I had never seen before. It was too dark to see clearly or to take photographs. Looking through our field guides, I considered a Bullock's Oriole, but thought it was highly unlikely given our location and the time of year. I was disappointed I couldn't get photos because I presumed I would never see the bird again. I was wrong. When I saw the bird again a few days later on 26 November 2011, I had a camera nearby. Those first pictures weren't great, but certainly good enough to help identify the bird. The bird's size, medium length, tapered bill, and vivid orange and black coloration were clearly the features of an oriole. The orange supercilium, black eye stripe, narrow black bib, and bold white patch on the secondary coverts identified the bird as a male Bullock's Oriole. The head pattern and extent of white in the wings were sufficient to eliminate the similar Baltimore Oriole or a hybrid between these two species.

The Bullock's Oriole preferred the suet feeder, but also foraged for seeds on the ground. At different times, I offered him the traditional orange sections and grape jelly fare, but he never seemed interested. He clearly preferred the suet. After seeing him every day or two for the first few weeks, I was concerned when over a week went by with no sighting. When he did finally return, all of his tail feathers were missing. He was tail-less, but otherwise appeared healthy and active. Over the next several weeks new tail feathers eventually appeared.

The Bullock's Oriole remained a regular visitor at our feeders through at least 21 March 2012. Bullock's Oriole is a rare visitor to Iowa with just four previous state records. Notably, one was present from 4 November 1999 to 25 March 2000 at a feeding station in Elk Horn in Shelby County (*Iowa Bird Life* 70:43, 100, 141).

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Curve-billed Thrasher in Lucas County

Paul D. B. Skrade and Stephen J. Dinsmore

In early February 2012 Paul Skrade was contacted about an unusual bird frequenting a yard near Lucas in Lucas County. A low quality photo suggested the bird was possibly a Curve-billed Thrasher. Paul obtained permission for a quick visit to the yard on 5 February 2012 by the authors and Corey Lange to confirm the identification and photograph the bird. At the end of our visit we requested permission to publicize the sighting, but the landowners declined and did not want other visitors. Ironically, the bird was not seen again after our visit.

When we arrived a little after 7:30 A.M., we met with the landowners and they showed us the areas where the bird had been seen. We proceeded to walk the hedgerows around the house without locating the bird. We continued to a nearby brushy ravine where the bird had been seen and quickly found it at 8:15 A.M. on the ground under a dense patch of cedars. We watched and photographed the bird here for almost 30 minutes and then returned to the house. As we were about to depart, the bird suddenly appeared in the yard and we watched it for another 45 minutes before we left at 9:25 A.M. Initially, the bird was quite secretive and remained in the center of the cedar thicket, often hidden behind branches. Later, in the yard, the bird perched in the open a few feet off the ground and was also seen scratching in leaves and snow at the base of a clump of foxtail.

The thrasher was a medium-sized bird with a plump body, very similar in body size to an American Robin. It lacked a tail, which the landowners said had disappeared the previous week, perhaps due to a cat attack. The bird was easily recognizable as a Curve-billed Thrasher. The bill was black, roughly equal to the length of the head, rather thin, and evenly decurved to a sharp tip. The eye was yellow with a black iris. The bird's upperparts were a cold, gray-brown color without any distinct markings. The upperwings were the same color as the upperparts with a prominent thin white bar along the tips of the greater secondary coverts and a less extensive white bar along the tips of the median secondary coverts. The throat and underparts were off-white with distinct darker brownish-gray mottling on the upper breast that gradually faded on the flanks and belly. The undertail coverts were white with a faint hint of buff color. The legs and feet appeared dark-colored. On the basis of the grayer upperparts and white (not buffy) upperwing coverts we concluded that the bird was an adult. Furthermore, the prominent white wing bars and distinct breast spotting indicate the bird was of the more easterly subspecies *T. c. curvirostre*, the expected subspecies in the Midwest. The homeowner indicated the bird had been present since at least 14 November 2011.

This represents the fifth record of a Curve-billed Thrasher in Iowa. There is no clear pattern of occurrence in Iowa with records from all seasons. However, two individuals were present in the winter of 1980-81, one from late September 1980-31 January 1981 at Rathbun Res, Appanoose Co. and the other from 17 November 1980-February 1981 at Solon, Johnson Co. (Newlon, M. C. 1981. Curve-billed Thrashers in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 51:21-24).

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The June 1962 issue led off with a short article by David Trauger describing the first American Wigeon nest known from Iowa. Found in June 1961 at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the nest contained eight eggs but eventually was destroyed by a predator.

The longest article was the report on the organization's fortieth annual convention held in May 1962 at Cedar Falls. A total of 161 people registered for the meeting, probably one of the largest meetings the organization has ever held. The organization's membership for 1961-62 was listed as 366 members. The Sunday field trips reported finding a record 169 species and an additional 13 were seen on Saturday. Rock Pigeon was not considered countable at the time, and several species that are now considered almost automatic finds (Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Eurasian Collared-Dove, House Finch) had not yet become part of Iowa's regular avifauna.

A letter from newly elected I.O.U. President Dean Roosa encouraged members to find an activity in the organization where they could become involved. He ended by encouraging members to attend the upcoming fall meeting at Ledges State Park.

The field notes for spring 1962 included a good assortment of reports, indicating gradual growth of this feature. Of some interest were several reports of both Bohemian Waxwings and Evening Grosbeaks. The previous issue of *Iowa Bird Life* covering the winter season had indicated that there had been an invasion of both of these boreal species so these reports indicated that some had lingered into spring.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Business Meeting

19 May 2012

The IOU spring general membership business meeting was held at Montgomery Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, Iowa. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 4:20 P.M. Also in attendance were Tom Schilke, vice president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; Doug Hunt, treasurer; board members Jay Gilliam, Don Brown, Keith Dyché, Karen Viste-Sparkman, Dennis Thompson; and members of the organization.

Update on board business since the fall meeting: President Paul Roisen reported board actions taken through e-mail communications. The Projects Committee requested \$3,000 additional funds for worthy projects. This will be taken out of memorial funds. Paul Roisen announced new committee appointments: Rick Hollis and Paul Skrade for membership committee and Candace Havely for projects committee.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Konrad reported that minutes from the fall 2011 business meeting were published *IBL* 81(3):161-162 and budget meeting minutes were *IBL* 81(4), 193-194. Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Hunt reported that the total checking, savings and CD balance as of 30 April 2012 is \$61,045.43. This balance is down from the same time last year due to the additional \$3,000 allocated to projects. An audit will be conducted this October.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Pam Allen reported there are 21 new members this year but the organization is losing some members due to non-renewals. Ideas

for recruitment can be submitted to Doug Harr and the membership committee. On-line renewal is greatly appreciated, even if renewal check is then sent by mail. This facilitates record keeping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications: Ann Johnson reported that Tom Kent has recently completed a 125 page manuscript based on Paul Bartsch's 1899 master's thesis on pre-1900 Iowa bird citations. This historical reference has been published privately by Tom and is available to members while the supplies last for \$25. Tom has designated the IOU Publications Enhancement Fund to receive all proceeds from the sales. The first issue of *Iowa Bird Life* for 2012 has gone to press this week. Beginning with the next issue, members who have indicated willingness to save postage and read *IOU News* on-line will not be mailed a copy. Ann asked members to watch the listserv for an announcement of when it has been published. Ann asked members to be sure and submit any time-sensitive material to newsletter editor John Bissell several weeks before it needs to be published. Images used in the newsletter must be high quality jpegs or tiff files to have the resolution necessary for printing.

John is always looking for members' ideas and articles. With regard to electronic publications, Ann report the Listserv has 856 current subscribers. Ann has now made it possible for subscribers to change their own settings such as for temporary suspension due to vacation etc. Ann is seeking member volunteers to help with Listserv administration. Management of the IOU Facebook page has been turned over to the membership committee to use as a recruitment tool. Lastly, Ann reported website upgrade to new technology which allows for distributive maintenance. All members can take some ownership and help in maintaining a vibrant content. A user guide is available on the site which gives details. Some changes include dynamic membership reports, financial reports including a graph over time, on-line board actions, membership directory, IBL online for the past two years, county checklist information, gazetteer to local birding hotspots, and a photograph sharing site. The organization thanked Ann for her continued work in making the IOU website such an excellent resource.

Records: Ann Johnson reported that Jay Gilliam replaces Steve Dinsmore on the committee for a six-year term beginning 1 January 2012. Records are current through the winter season. The committee appreciates on-line documentations. Continue to document rarities through the committee as posts to the listserv are not permanent. Ann reminded the membership that a documentation review is not a vote on the credibility of the birder but simply whether or not a sighting was described with enough pertinent details that future birders can be confident that the identification was correct. Ann also reminded the membership that logging in prior to entering documentation provides the person with the document as well

as the committee vote and comments. The committee is working with others to make the contributions of Iowa birders meaningful to other entities, such as sharing data on threatened and endangered species with the Iowa DNR state ecologist.

Membership: Doug Harr reported that the committee is continuing to work on advertising the presence of the IOU through display boards. The organization had previously approved the purchase of three additional display boards with a travel bag. The committee would like members who live in the eastern and western counties in the State to volunteer to take these boards and display them at local birding and conservation events. The committee is still developing the information to be placed on the boards. Rick Hollis stated that he has noted that IOU has a lower membership based on percentage of state citizens compared to other states and is looking into why members join and why they leave.

Library/Historical: Hank Zaletel provided a written report detailing the work his committee continues to do regarding copying all postings on the IOU Listserv pertaining to the IOU, people, and related events. Hank also reported that many news articles from 1980-2000 were deposited in the ISU archives. These articles pertained to birds, people, and related events. A complete set of *IOU News* has been assembled and will be scanned for electronic access. Bids from potential vendors will be sought. This project should be complete and online in six months. Paul Roisen notified membership that money for this project has been approved by the board and will come from Ann Barker memorial money.

Projects: Due to 13 applications and

\$28,000 in requests, the committee ranked the requests and requested an additional \$3,000. Three requests were fully funded and the rest were partially funded. Paul Roisen thanked Keith Dyche for his four years of service on the committee. Projects and grant funding are as follows: an environmental education raptor pen for Woodbury CCB (\$500), heterospecific attraction in nest site selection research with Courtney Duchardt at University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (\$500), a bird identification kit for teachers with Iowa CCB (\$500), Hitchcock Hawkwatch raptor banding with Pottawattamie CCB (\$1,000), Cerulean Warbler research in Yellow River Forest with National Audubon Society (\$1,000), a hawk trapping station for the Iowa Wildlife Center (\$500), binoculars for Iowa Young Birders (\$1,500), the 2013 Keokuk Bald Eagle Days with Lee CCB (\$500), and a Chimney Swift tower for Friends of Jackson CCB (\$500).

OLD BUSINESS

Next meeting: The fall meeting will be held in Marshalltown 24-26 August 2012. Tom Schilke and Mark Proescholdt are making plans for events related to this weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

The spring 2013 meeting will be held 3-5 May 2013 in Waterloo.

President Paul Roisen asked if members would be interested in talking to him about ways to partner with other environmental organizations and increase the presence of IOU on grants, signage, and other events to contact him.

Items from the membership: Bob Cecil once again organized a book silent auc-

tion and urged members to bid on items; all proceeds go to publications committee. Bob's son John will be taking over the auction. The organization thanked Bob for his efforts in transporting books and other auction items to and from the yearly meetings.

Karen Disbrow brought up a concern over the extensive tree and scrub habitat removal at Cone Marsh by the DNR. Although the removal was of non-native species, the pines had been a roosting site for Long-eared owls. Ann Johnson reminded membership that this points out more than ever the importance of reporting significant seasonal sightings, rarities, and threatened and endangered species so this information is available to others.

Shane Patterson brought up the topic of the Southern Wings Program and their Latin American education and land acquisition activities. State agencies can help support their efforts. The Iowa DNR, Iowa Audubon, and American Bird Conservancy are some of the agencies that have offered support. No specific action taken but membership voiced general support for the Southern Wings Program.

Doug Harr is working with Joe Wikinson regarding the Alaska pipeline project to help the Bureau of Land Management make decisions to best preserve waterfowl and shorebird habitat. A letter has been drafted on behalf of IOU. Members can use this standard letter to write on behalf of IOU.

Carl Bendorf thanked IOU on behalf of Iowa Young Birders for the grant to help get this organization get off the ground. Ross Silcock is chairing the board of directors for this organization, which plans to recruit

young birders and have field trips across the state. The membership is \$10 and the schedule is available on the IOU website.

Election of new officers: Mark Proescholdt, John Rutenbeck, and Sharon Stilwell comprised the nominating committee. The slate of candidates consisted of the following: Treasurer: Mary Beth Hunt; Secretary: Stuart Sparkman; and three board members for regular terms: Jay Gilliam, Dennis Thompson, and Karen Viste-Sparkman. President Roisen asked for nominations from the floor. With no additional nominations received, the candidates were

declared elected by acclamation.

New members: Thirty first time attendees were at the meeting. These individuals were introduced and welcomed. Vice President Tom Schilke presented each with the book *Birds in Iowa*.

Walter Stephenson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Konrad, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

19 May 2012

The IOU spring board meeting was held at Montgomery Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, Iowa. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 1:20 P.M. Also in attendance were Tom Schilke, vice-president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; Doug Hunt, treasurer; board members Jay Gilliam, Don Brown, Keith Dyche, Karen Viste-Sparkman and Dennis Thompson; committee chairs Ann Johnson, Hank Zaletel and Doug Harr; and newsletter editor John Bissell.

Board of Directors action since the fall meeting: President Paul Roisen reported actions taken through e-mail communications. The Projects Committee requested \$3,000 in additional funds due to increased applications from worthy projects. This was moved by Don Brown and seconded by Karen Viste-Sparkman. Passed by 6-0 vote.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Konrad reported that the minutes of the 2011 fall board meeting were published in *IBL* 81(3):163-164 and budget meeting min-

utes were published in *IBL* 81(4):193-194. No additions or corrections were offered. Minutes stand approved.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Hunt reported that the total checking, savings and CD assets are \$61,045.43. This balance is down from the same time last year due to the additional \$3,000 allocated to projects. Discussion ensued regarding where the \$3,000 additional projects money should come from. It was decided to take \$100 from the Kent fund, \$100 from the Brown

fund, and \$2,800 from the Ann Barker fund. An audit will be conducted this fall.

Membership Coordinator's Report:

Pam Allen reported 21 new memberships so far this year; 41 members from last year have not yet renewed. Ann Johnson offered ideas to increase memberships such as advertising in county conservation board newsletters and contacting the 279 individuals who have accounts on the IOU Listserv.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Library: Hank Zaletel requested board approval to use money from the Ann Barker memorial fund to pay the cost of scanning copies of the *IOU News* from 1985-2010, which could then be accessed through the web site. Motion made by Don Brown to approve and seconded by Jay Gilliam. Motion carried.

Newsletter: Ann Johnson reported that members can receive their newsletter in either print or electronic format. Ann and newsletter editor John Bissell are coordinating the list of member preferences so all members are receiving a print version for now.

Conservation: Paul Roisen asked board members to consider additional conservation initiatives, perhaps partnering with other organizations for land acquisition. This sparked additional discussion on how to prioritize funding for land acquisition, research, and service projects.

Nominating Committee: Nominating committee consisted of Mark Proescholdt, John Rutenbeck, and Sharon Stilwell. A slate of officers was presented to the Board: Treasurer: Mary Beth Hunt; Secretary: Stuart Sparkman; and three board members for

regular terms: Jay Gilliam, Dennis Thompson, and Karen Viste-Sparkman.

OLD BUSINESS

Next meeting: The fall meeting will be in Marshalltown on 24-26 August 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring 2013 IOU meeting: The spring IOU meeting will be in Waterloo on 3-5 May 2013.

Committee appointment approvals: Paul Roisen announced that Rick Hollis and Paul Skrade have been recommended for Membership Committee. Moved by Jay Gilliam and seconded by Dennis Thompson. Motion carried. Candace Havelly has been recommended for Projects Committee. Moved by Tom Schilke and seconded by Karen Viste-Sparkman. Motion carried.

Future board meeting times: Paul Roisen asked for board input into meeting times. Discussion ensued regarding finding time for both meetings and allowing the board time for socialization and birding. Members agreed to the need to make sure board meeting times are available to the general membership. Options might be Friday night, early Saturday evening, or a conference call prior to each meeting. Further discussion recommended keeping board business timely and limiting time to only topics that require board action.

New and better website: (due to time constraints, this action took place following the general business meeting from 5:20-5:25 P.M.): Ann Johnson distributed booklets she prepared called "Board of Directors User Guide. A guide for conducting IOU Board Business online". This booklet ac-

companies the many changes and improvements Ann has made to the IOU website, making an excellent website even better. Ann has made changes facilitating a more decentralized approach to web management. Officers and board members will be able to make limited changes to the web site

in an effort to better facilitate communication and conduct business.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Konrad, secretary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional \$45, Foreign \$35, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer (see inside front cover). Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at cootjr@iastate.edu. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring: 3–5 May 2013, Waterloo.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Bullock's Oriole, Ottumwa, *Wapello*, 22 December 2011. Photograph by Gail Masinda, Ottumwa, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Curve-billed Thrasher, *Lucas*, 5 February 2012. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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